POLICE SECURITY EXPO SHOW GUIDE – PAGE 35

P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

JULY/AUGUST 2021
VOLUME 37 ISSUE 4

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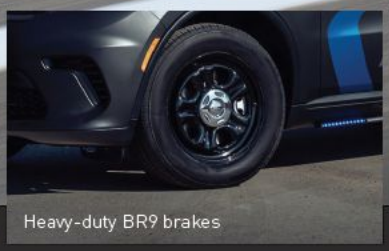
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Following the March 2020 arrest-related death of a combative person, in which a spit mask was employed by law enforcement, the use of these devices is once again under the spotlight.

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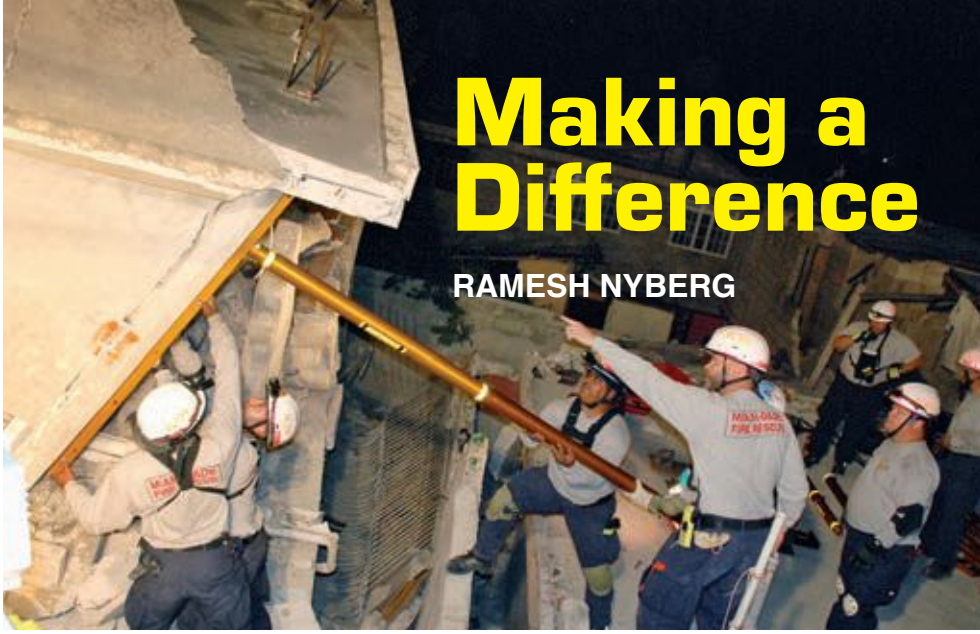


Making a Difference

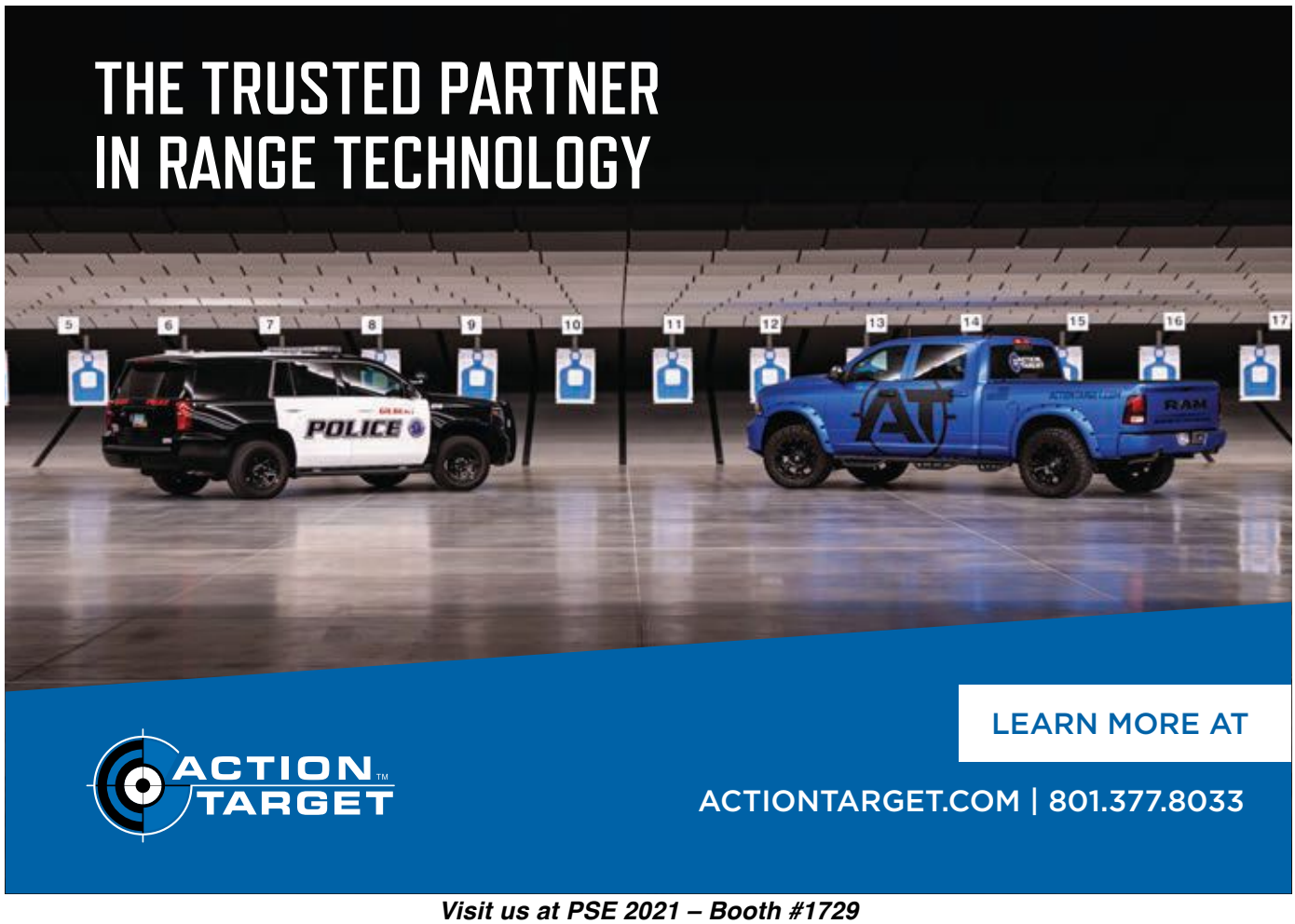
RAMESH NYBERG

This column is dedicated to the victims and families of the Surfside, Florida, condo collapse.

Is it weird what I'm feeling?

Here I am in Boston with my wife on vacation, enjoying time with my son, his wife and my 18-month-old grandson, and I suddenly have an urge to be in Surfside, picking through rubble and recovering victims of this disastrous building collapse. They say that police work "gets in your blood" and never goes away. And, it's true. But, there is a remnant of being a public servant for nearly three decades and it lingers. This is something which shadows one forever and it's more than the memory of the satisfaction of catching bad guys. It goes beyond the fulfillment of working on a case and solving it; of hearing the jury say, "Guilty"; and of seeing a killer being led away to prison in handcuffs and shackles. There's this visceral, undefinable desire to be near the "action" or, more specifically, to be part of something bigger than yourself. Indeed, what stays in our blood – and in our hearts – is the need to assist when an emergency happens. It's the energy we get when we can be the helpers – the ones who can function, stay calm (on the outside, anyway) and do the tough stuff when others are broken, lost and wracked with grief. We thrive when we are the helpers, the solvers.

If you're thinking, "Aww, that won't be me. Once I retire, I'll forget all about this stuff." Well, *maybe* you will and if you can really walk away from it all and not feel anything, maybe we got into this line of work for dissimilar reasons. But, the reality for me is different. You can call it ego or whatever you want, but there I sat this past Thursday, June 24th, in my son's living room in Boston, looking at the shock



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

and horror on the faces of Surfside residents as they stood outside the rubble of the Champlain condo tower thinking, "I would have been there." Someone in the homicide office would have called a meeting in the conference room, explained what was happening, and we would have formed teams and headed to Surfside. I would have been there with teams of rescuers, homicide cops, firefighters, and volunteers, trying to save people and, if we couldn't, we would be retrieving deceased persons who belong to families standing on the other side of the yellow tape, waiting in terror.

I'm 63 years old. I'm in good shape, but I probably would have done something to my back or to my knees while clambering around the scene of the collapse. I probably would have needed my nebulizer a couple of times, inhaling all the dust and debris kicked up around the recovery scene. I probably would have gotten a dozen flashbacks of doing next of kin notifications as I watched the bystanders covering their mouths as the yellow blanketed forms are carted out of the wreckage. But, I can't lie: If called, I would have gone in a heartbeat. Had I been back in South Florida at the time instead of in Massachusetts, I might have even volunteered, over the protests of my wife, who would have been saying something like, "What?? You're going *where*? You retired 15 years ago!"

I know I am not the only retired cop who feels this way. Especially for my brothers and sisters with whom I worked homicide cases, I am sure there are many, if not all, who would have gladly joined me, making appointments with their chiropractors in advance. It's that sort of mystical aspect of police work which motivates people to put on a badge and be willing to go into dangerous situations and risk life, limb and emotional wellness for the benefit of *others* – for less pay than dozens of other, safer jobs.

Just last month, on May 11th, many of us remembered the 25th anniversary of the crash of ValuJet flight 592 which nose-dived into the Everglades and obliterated all 111 flight crew and passengers on board. I spent three weeks out in the swamp with my team, picking up pieces of human beings, luggage and plane parts. There was no reward except for the solemn understanding that we had a *duty* to somehow try to honor the remains those bereaved families wanted to lay to rest. We got out there and surveyed a horrific, surreal landscape of tattered suitcases, clothes, metal, hands and feet, and we saw more than just "victims" – we saw our own wives and husbands, parents, kids… we saw *ourselves*. The reward was when a busload of them came out close to the crash site and applauded and saluted us for the work we were doing.

The core of what we do in law enforcement is more than just ridding society of its ills. We will never be able to permanently achieve such a thing. There will always be criminals and, hence, there will always be victims. The core of what we do – the beating heart of what it means to be a public servant – is the recognition that we are all vulnerable; we are all fallible; and we are all occupants of a fragile shell of flesh and blood – and that we, in the blink of an eye, could be the ones suffering from loss or be the loss ourselves. So, we are the hand which is grabbed by the desperate, grieving person looking for help and strength. We are the ones who keep holding their hand, guiding them through the impossible labyrinth of funerals, trials and (hopefully) closure. We are the ones who stand on the other side of the yellow tape, toiling, as they watch and look to us for some type of heroism or for some glimmer of hope. And, when the tape comes down, we are on the same side of life and death.

My grandson is running around happily at the news that we are all heading out to the park in a few minutes. I wonder where he will be in 20 years. A part of me hopes that he has a chance to serve others in some way; that he has the chance to be that hand which others can grasp. I hope he feels the fullness of heart which comes from pulling others up out of the quagmire of hopelessness and fear.

If you're reading this, you might not even know why you chose the profession you did. But, I have a feeling it had something to do with being on that very special "other" side of the yellow tape. Thank you for making that choice. My grandson might be right there alongside you some day.

Or, he just might need your hand. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He is the Director of Security & Auxiliary Programs for Ransom Everglades School in Miami. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has recently announced his newly published book, The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective*, available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook. You can find it by visiting* ***https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm***

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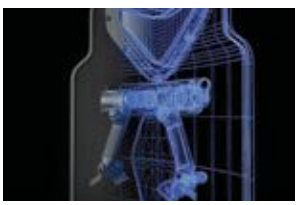

New Custom 3D Shield Builder

A new industry first feature available from BlueRidge Armor is the **3D Shield Builder**. This new Web-based service allows law enforcement personnel to customize their BlueRidge shield, including being able to view it in 3D before purchasing.

Users select their ballistic shield platform, viewport, handle and light combination, and see their selections assembled instantly in full 3D view. Buyers can select a size and see how the range of shields match up against one another. Next, choose from a range of colors and COREBOND® large format ID to complete the shield. There's no guesswork or E-mailing back and forth, and users are free to make as many adjustments as they want and compare them before making a decision. Law enforcement agencies can even send in their own artwork or logo to add to their personalized shield purchase.

blueridgearmor.com/3dbuilder

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The **TACOPS Active Response Breach Kit** from TSSi enables access to structures when doors and windows may otherwise be impassable. The collapsible tools offer ease of storage, transport and carry while maximizing leverage and force when extended. The TACOPS Active Response pack enables tools to be carried with their handles either collapsed or expanded and allows a single user to carry and deploy the tools while still maintaining access to a sidearm or shoulder-fired weapon. Items include the following: TACOPS Active Response pack – a lightweight, high strength tool quiver with ambidextrous quick release buckles; Bolt Cutter – folding-handled, full-size bolt cutter; Houly – a telescopic houly designed to fit into metal door frames which can also be used as a window rake; Sledge – a telescopic sledge hammer for use individually or in combination with the houly. The TACOPS One Man Ram is not included, but it is recommended.

tssi-ops.com

Rival XL Foregrip Combos

The newest **Rival XL Foregrip Combo from Firefield®** is the perfect addition to any M-LOK styled AR rail. Available with a red or green laser, it is three products in one, reducing the amount of hardware and weight on your AR rail. The lasers are ideal for rapid target acquisition for short- and medium-range tactical operations. The foregrips are modular and can be configured to customize your firearm grip and the flashlight provides a maximum of 150 lumens. The **Rival XL Foregrip Combos** are made of durable composite and metal construction with a matte black finish; they operate on one CR123A battery.

fire-field.com

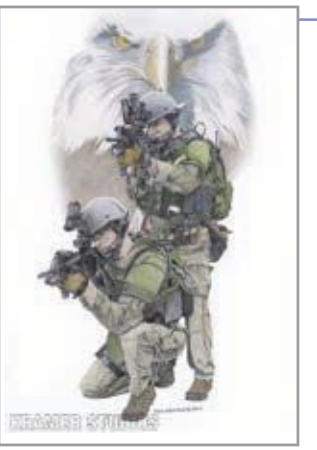
Tactical Explorer 2.0

A new tool from Bounce Imaging was developed with input from the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team – the **Explorer 2.0 tactical camera**. The throwable **camera** has two-way audio capability – allowing hostage negotiators on barricaded suspect or hostage situation call-outs a direct line of communication and increased 360° situational awareness for a fraction of the cost of traditional hostage negotiation tools.

Traditionally, hostage negotiators have been restricted by communicating through audio-only devices which rely on a subject's compliance in picking up the receiver. The two-way audio feature in the Bounce Imaging **camera** eliminates the requirement for the suspect to pick up the phone by providing a direct line of communication.

Once the **camera** is in the vicinity of the subject, officers with any Android or iOS device can immediately begin communicating with the subject. The subject is not required to take any other action besides simply talking.

bounceimaging.com



Tactical Artwork

Known by many as the "Father of Modern Tactical Artwork," Dick Kramer produces the finest in tactical art for first responders, as well as military themed art prints. According to Dick, these represent the brightest, bravest and best our nation has to offer.

Pictured above is a print which depicts two SWAT team members melded together with the symbol of American freedom, the bald eagle.

These fine works of art are available on a number of formats and products, including posters, prints, coffee mugs, notecards, and mouse pads.

dickkramer.com

Communication Systems

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invisio.com

Next Gen AR-15 Mag from SENTRY

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sentrytactical.com

Firefield®'s BattleTek Subcompact Laser Sight

The much anticipated **BattleTek Subcompact Red Laser Sight** is a powerful 5mW red laser sight which provides daytime visibility at 30 yards and nighttime visibility at 300 yards. Its internal, rechargeable battery ensures two hours of continuous juice or six hours of "pulsing" power. This ambidextrous laser sight is durable with a glass-filled nylon housing; is IP55 water-resistant; shockproof; operates at temperatures from -4°F to 113°F; is windage and elevation adjustable; and features a maximum caliber rating of .45 ACP. For short- or mid-range engagements, its compact construction fits small, subcompact pistols, as opposed to most "normal-sized" lasers which may protrude beyond the muzzle.

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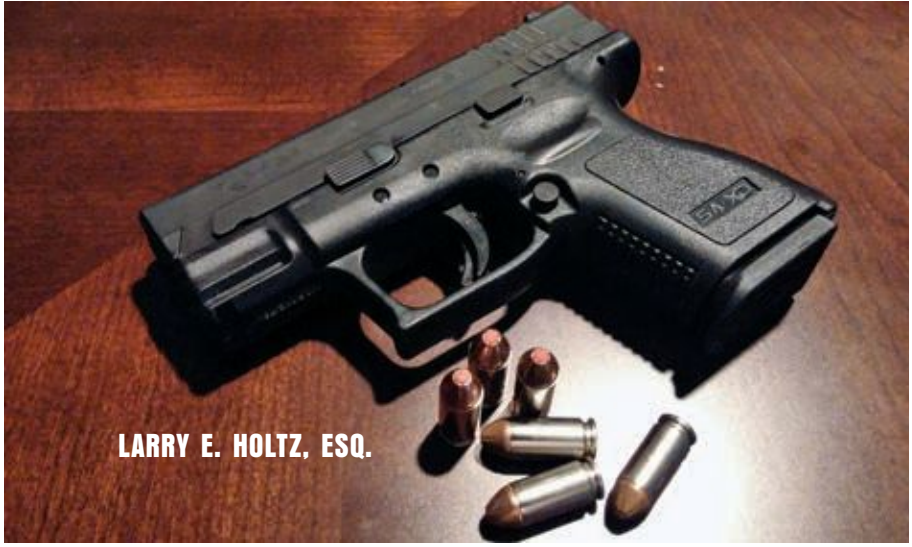
LEGAL UPDATE

Community Caretaking and Home Entries



LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

In *Caniglia v. Strom* (US 5-17-21), the United States Supreme Court recently addressed the question of whether law enforcement's community caretaking duties create a stand-alone doctrine which justifies warrantless searches and seizures in the home. The answer, according to the Court, is ***NO! Here, the Court refused to recognize the "community caretaking" rule as a "freestanding" Fourth Amendment category.***

During an argument with his wife, Edward Caniglia placed a handgun on the dining room table and said, "Shoot me now and get it over with." She did not; she left and spent the night at a hotel. The next morning, she was unable to reach Edward by phone, so she called the police to request a welfare check. The officers accompanied Mrs. Caniglia to the home where they found Edward on the porch. The officers called an ambulance believing that Edward posed a risk to himself or others. Edward agreed to go to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation on the condition that the officers not confiscate his firearms. As soon as the ambulance had taken Edward away, however, the officers seized the weapons. Guided by Mrs. Caniglia – whom they allegedly misinformed about Edward's wishes – the officers entered the home and took two handguns. Edward sued, claiming that the officers violated the Fourth Amendment when they entered his home and seized him and his firearms without a warrant.

The First Circuit determined that the police officers' decision to remove Caniglia and his weapons from the premises fell within the "community caretaking" exception. The officers properly chose to be

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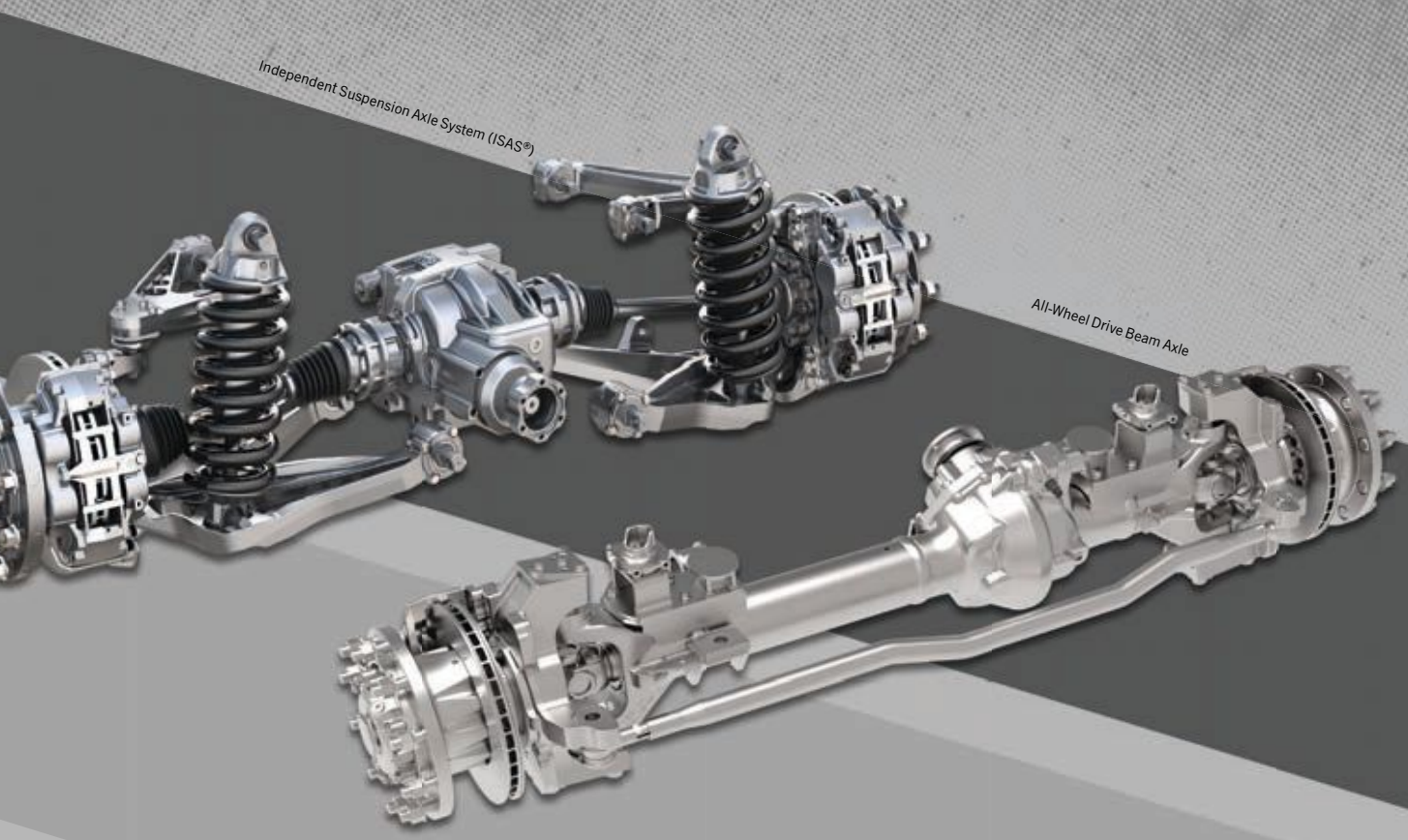

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Continued from page 12

proactive and to take preventative action by seizing Caniglia and sending him to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation, rather than leaving him agitated, ostensibly suicidal and with two handguns at his fingertips. *Upon further appeal, the United States Supreme Court disagreed with the First Circuit and vacated the lower court's judgment.*

In the landmark case of *Cady v. Dombrowski*, 413 *U.S.* 433 (1973), the United States Supreme Court held that a warrantless search of an impounded vehicle for an unsecured firearm did not violate the Fourth Amendment. The *Cady* Court observed that police officers who patrol the "public highways" are often called to discharge noncriminal "community caretaking functions," such as responding to disabled vehicles or investigating accidents. Such "community caretaking functions," emphasized the Court, are "totally divorced from the detection, investigation, or acquisition of evidence relating to the violation of a criminal statute."

Here, in *Caniglia v. Strom*, the Court held that *Cady* did not recognize the "community caretaking" rule as a "free-standing" Fourth Amendment category.

While *Cady* did involve a warrantless search for a firearm, the location of that search was an impounded vehicle – not a home – and that is an important "constitutional difference." *Cady*'s unmistakable distinction between vehicles and homes also places into proper context its reference to "community caretaking," where the Court discussed the frequency with which vehicles can become disabled or involved in accidents on public highways – often requiring the police to perform noncriminal "community caretaking functions," such as providing aid to motorists.

According to the Court here in *Caniglia*, "What is reasonable for vehicles is different from what is reasonable for homes. *Cady* acknowledged as much and this Court has repeatedly 'declined to expand the scope of…exceptions to the warrant requirement to permit warrantless entry into the home.'" Thus, as Justice Alito emphasized in his concurring opinion, "There is no special Fourth Amendment rule for a broad category of cases involving 'community caretaking.'" **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

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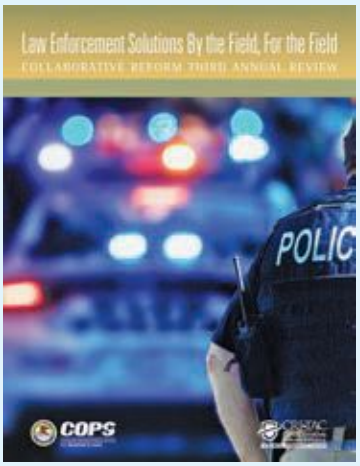
NEWS

Using Sports to Build Trust with Local Law Enforcement

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) recently released a new resource, *Bridging the Gap: Using Sports to Build Trust with Local Law Enforcement*. Nancy Lieberman Charities has opened 92 Dream Courts, state-of-the-art play spaces serving more than four million children each year in a variety of community sporting activities, including some involving local law enforcement in programs funded by the COPS Office.

To obtain a copy of this resource, visit **https://tinyurl.com/ycexxy5z**

Law Enforcement Solutions By the Field, For the Field

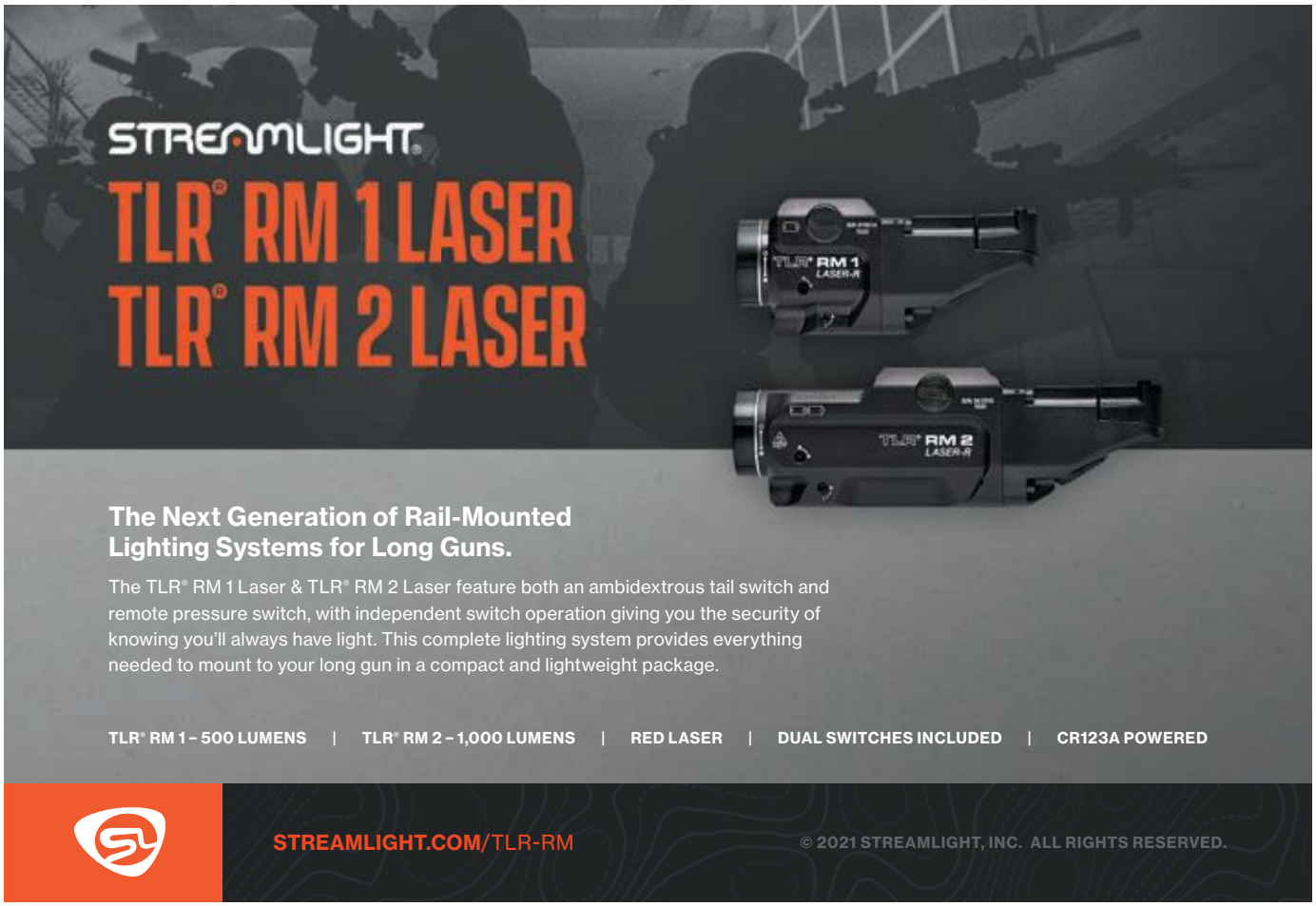


The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is pleased to release the new report, *Law Enforcement Solutions By the Field, For the Field: Collaborative Reform Third Annual Review.*

The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center is a partnership between the COPS Office and many professional law enforcement organizations throughout the field to provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies on request. In its first three years, the center fielded more than 450 requests for assistance from campus, local, county, and state agencies on critical issues like community engagement; active shooter response; de-escalation; crime analysis; mass demonstrations; school safety; and recruitment, hiring, and retention.

This report shows how the center has supported agencies in their efforts to ensure public safety in their communities. The COPS Office is committed to continue working diligently with their partners to provide high quality, relevant and timely assistance by the field, for the field.

To obtain a copy of the publication, visit **https://tinyurl.com/knb56kdk**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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

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The hypodermic needle puncture- and cut-resistant glove, the **Puncture Pro** (**HPG100**), was designed for the growing threat of needle sticks to law enforcement and corrections officers and offers the highest rating for both hypodermic needle sticks and cut resistance from the ASTM E3109-18: Standard Specification for Protective Gloves Worn by Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers results. The **HPG100** also scored the highest level of protection for dexterity from EN 420 tests.

Available in classic black, the **Puncture Pro** is made with a durable synthetic leather palm and touchscreen technology in the index finger and thumb. There are two layers of special cut- and puncture-resistant flexible mesh in the palm and flexible spandex knit material and neoprene on the back.

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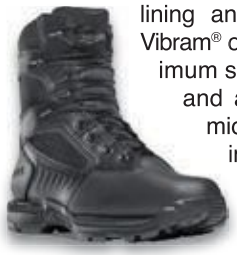

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Aker has announced their new **B02P Duty Belt** which is best in class for tactical applications and is made in the USA. Using multilayer construction with a polymer stiffener; nylon lining; and a three-point release, shatter-resistant plastic buckle, it is available in plain leather, high gloss or basketweave laminate and is compatible with their B08V VELCRO® Lined Inner Belt. The **B02P** resists tearing, scuffing or scratching, and can be easily cleaned and maintained.

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SPECIALIZING IN FORENSICS

STEPHENIE SLAHOR, PH.D.

The science of forensics is a critical part of the overall function of law enforcement, evidence and courtroom procedures. And, it is a growing career opportunity for those interested in both the science behind it and the law surrounding it.

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There are varying paths for those qualified to carry out forensic work. These include work in crime or forensic laboratories analyzing death investigation; microscopy; research; entomology; toxicology; art; anthropology; DNA analysis; firearms and tool mark examination; odontology; geology; pathology; biology; blood stain patterns; disaster victim identification; arson and explosion investigation; document examination; hand and foot friction ridge detail; wildlife forensics in identification and individualization (nonhuman biological evidence); footwear; tire examination; behavioral science; graphic design (crime scene reconstruction); accounting; digital and multimedia sciences; cybersecurity; and laboratory management. On the civil side, included are forensic jobs in industry and commercial laboratories; security; insurance investigation; law firms; forensic accounting; environmental pollutants; natural products; biological specimens and nonbiological samples and their preparation; laboratory management; questioned documents; art; engineering physics; and academic research.

Choosing a college or university offering specialization in forensic science is the first step. A master's or higher degree is usually required for the specialization and, ideally, the college or university should include a connection to a large city's police department, a coroner's office, or excellent laboratory facilities either on or off campus.

It is also wise to determine if the school's programs are associated with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences which develops documentary standards for forensics to create a national registry of those standards; and/or the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission which seeks to evaluate and recognize quality forensic programs at the university level. Among the universities which the organization has accredited are Loyola University; Michigan State University; Fayetteville University; Boston University; West Virginia University; Texas A&M; Duquesne University; Sam Houston State University, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Penn State Eberly College of Science; Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA); Marshall University (Huntington, WV); Eastern Kentucky University; Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA); University of Central Oklahoma; Arcadia University (Glenside, PA); and Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA).

Curricula, tuition costs, financial aid, time required, thesis research, and even geographic location will certainly influence your decision about which colleges to consider. These factors vary from college to college, so exploring options is important. Keep a notebook or file of your findings to better compare what is available in your field(s) of interest.

To provide a look at some programs, the following universities are described, but they are only a small sample of the many universities with quality forensic science programs. These schools can give an idea of the varying curricula and requirements which schools have.

Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Public and Global Affairs in New Jersey (**fdu.edu/spga**) offers a degree in Cyber and Homeland Security with coursework in cyber forensics. FDU's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers an MA in Forensic Psychology. It offers an undergraduate degree in Computer Forensics and an undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in forensics which addresses how physical and psychological evidence resolves issues involving criminal behavior, crime scenes and criminal investigations. This highly popular field spans across many disciplines, drawing from psychology, sociology, criminology, political science, chemistry, biology, and philosophy.

The **University of Central Florida** in Orlando (**ucf.edu**) has Master of Science program concentrations in forensic analysis and forensic biochemistry and has a "Forensic Professional" master's degree in which a thesis is not required. Both full- and part-time study are offered, with the university's chemistry department

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Continued from page 19

A career in the forensic science field encompasses dozens of specializations.

overseeing the curricula. At least 32 credit hours of studies are required for the Forensic Analysis and Biochemistry concentrations (beyond the bachelor's degree) and a thesis is required. The thesis examination committee consists of two of the university's faculty members and at least one other member who is an acknowledged forensic expert in the field in which the thesis is themed.

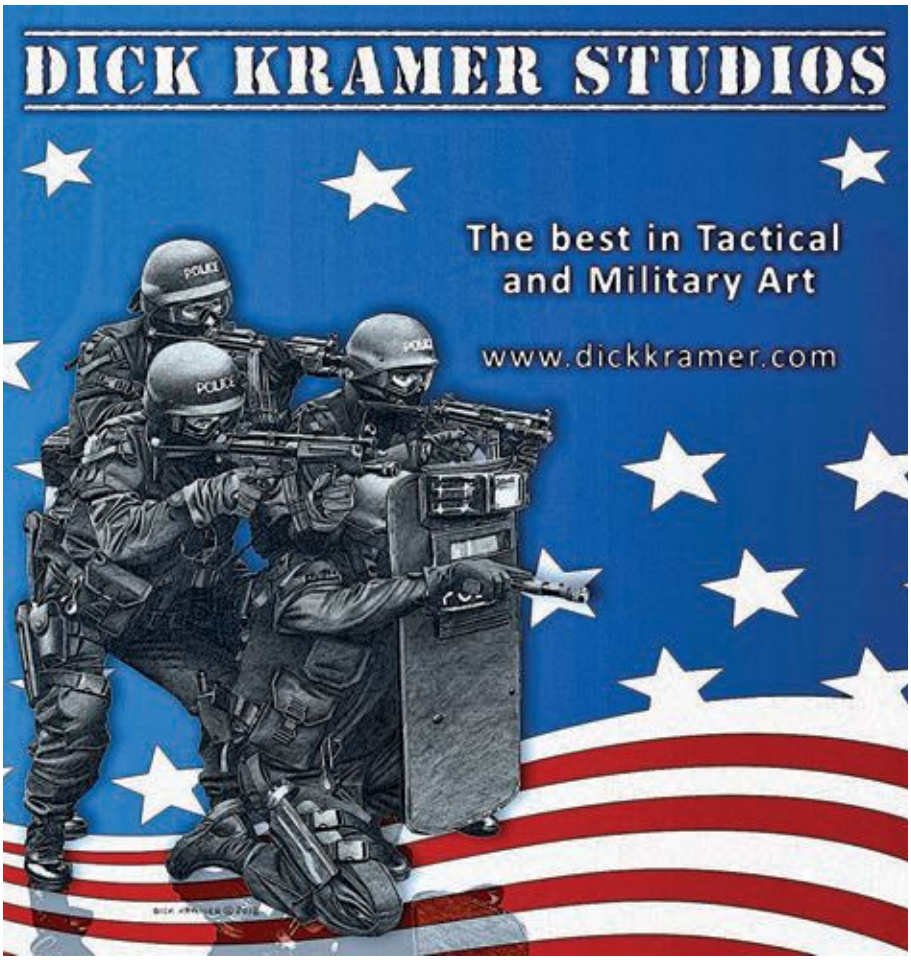
Specifically, the Forensic Analysis concentration uses chromatographic, spectroscopic and micro-analytical techniques, and the Forensic Biochemistry program is centered on DNA biochemistry. The Forensic Professional program (non-thesis) requires 34 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree and is designed for someone who is already employed in an operational forensic laboratory or who has worked in one for at least three years. A capstone project is required besides the coursework, but it need not be an original, laboratory-based project.

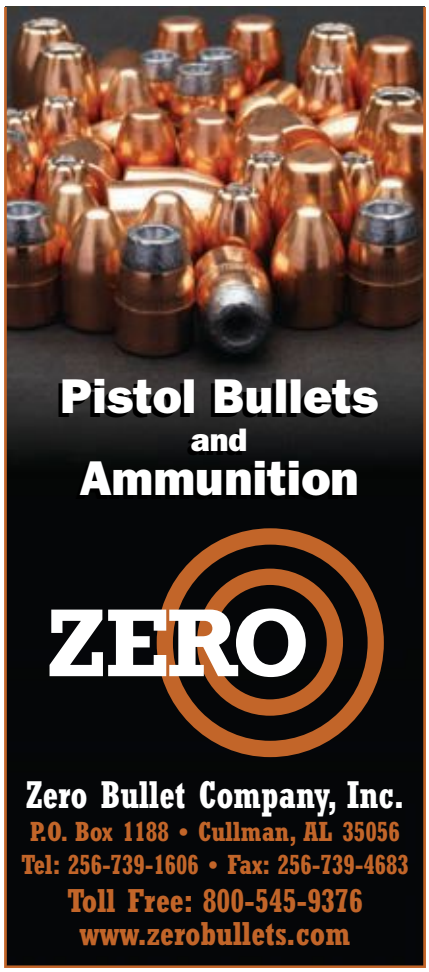
The degree programs can be completed online, but not all elective options or program prerequisites may be offered online.

Florida International University in Miami (**https://ifri.fiu.edu**) offers a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science, with at least 32 credit hours and a research project and thesis are required. The curriculum is specifically designed for those seeking to work as forensic science practitioners in casework or those who are planning to seek a Ph.D. or another degree (e.g., law). The school's program meets the requirements of the DNA Advisory Board and the criteria required by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Coursework includes forensic chemistry (analysis of controlled substances; materials such as glass, fibers and paint; flammable residue; explosive residue; etc.), forensic biology (molecular biology including techniques and laboratory methods) and forensic analysis (crime scene methods, laboratory management and legal procedures and evidence).

The University's resources include DNA profiling equipment, trace evidence analysis equipment, forensic and analytical toxicology equipment, and affiliated instrumentation through the school's Advanced Mass Spectrometry Facility and the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

University of Central Oklahoma (**uco.edu**) – Located in Edmond, OK, the school's Master of Science degrees in its Forensic Science Institute are research oriented and require a minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate level work and six hours of thesis research in a major area. The programs are currently in forensic science related to molecular biology, chemistry and digital applications.

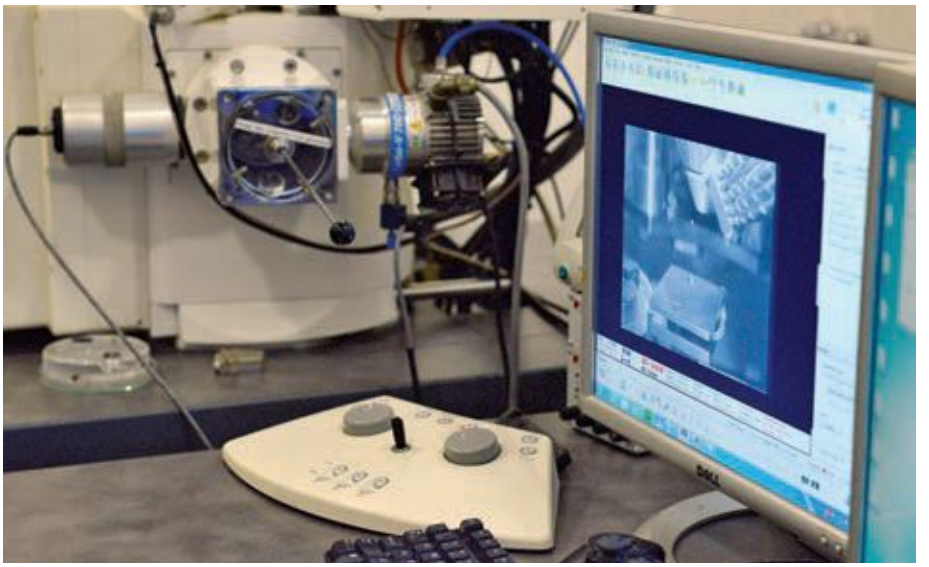




Marshall University (**marshall.edu**) (Huntington, WV) – The two year academic program for a master's degree in Forensic Science includes a five semester core curriculum. Both thesis and non-thesis options are available. Beyond the core curriculum are specializations in DNA analysis, forensic chemistry, digital forensics, and crime scene investigation. On-site research and laboratory work are available and off-site internships are possible.

Michigan State University (**forensic.msu.edu**) (East Lansing, MI) – The university's program began in 1947 and has evolved from a bachelor's degree program to a graduate specialization for a Master of Science degree. It was among the first to be accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Committee and has retained its accreditation to the present. The program offers both theoretical and practical work and has a strong emphasis on forensic chemistry. A thesis is required and internships are encouraged.

The **University of Florida** in Gainesville (**forensicscience.ufl.edu**) centers its curriculum through the College of Pharmacy and requires 18 credits of required coursework and 14 credits of electives in various forensic disciplines. The master's degree is designated as a Master of Science in Pharmacy with a major in Pharmaceutical Sciences and a concentration in forensic science. Coursework includes biological evidence; serology; toxicology; statistics for data analysis; and specialized studies in nucleotide activity, chemical



It is recommended that your school's programs are associated with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

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Continued from page 21

weapons, blood distribution/spatter, microbial and biosecurity aspects, entomology, biological evidence, and crime scene analysis.

Sam Houston State University (**shsu.edu**) (Huntsville, TX) – The multidiscipline forensic program for the master's degree was the first of its kind in the state of Texas and was designed to provide students with a means of tailoring their degrees to specific needs and goals. The school offers a minor, a Master of Science, and a Ph.D. in Forensic Science. Studies include forensic biology; botany; entomology; anthropology; instrumental and chemical analysis; poisons; residues; hairs; fibers; glass; soil; paint and other materials; toxicology; chromatography; microscopy; and other laboratory analysis methods.

Another unique field of forensic science is forensic accounting.

Boston University (**bu.edu**) – The university's program offers a variety of forensic disciplines including DNA analysis, chemistry, death investigation, crime scene investigation, biology, molecular biology, toxicology, laboratory methods, pattern evidence, and pathology. Required courses set the foundation and elective courses focus on one general scientific area. Thesis research is required.

University of New Haven (**newhaven.edu**) (West Haven, CT) – A Master's of Science degree in Forensic Science is combined with additional courses in criminal justice to prepare students for one of three concentrations: criminal investigation, financial crime investigation, and computer forensic investigation. The programs can be completed online. Required courses include 33 credits in criminalistics, laboratory work, DNA analysis, and thesis preparation. Additional coursework totaling nine credits covers such topics such as capillary electrophoresis, wildlife forensics, drug chemistry, forensic anthropology, forensic microscopy, and forensic toxicology.

Forensic Accounting

While we traditionally think of forensic science as something dealing with physical evidence (its collection, preservation and use in court), a somewhat unique form of forensic science is forensic accounting. Data in the form of numbers, bookkeeping and banking are used to analyze and find patterns pointing out criminal activity in fraud or suspicion of violations of commercial, civil or criminal law, income tax investigations, RICO violations, bankruptcy, wire fraud, embezzlement, and even family law. Financial losses and fraudulent misrepresentations to vendors, suppliers, customers, government officials, stakeholders, creditors, etc., may be involved. Typically, several months or even years of records are reviewed to determine what has been happening such as credit manager kickbacks, write-offs of account balances, contracts with terms unfavorable to the business, unrecorded purchases or sales, significant increases in bad debt ex-

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Continued from page 22

penses, unusual transactions, payments or credits to fictitious persons, or discrepancies between recorded sales and deliveries. The forensic accountant reviews not only the accounts, but also documents and inventory to find these situations or patterns.

Surprise inventory counts, examinations of cancelled checks (looking for similar-looking signatures, multiple endorsements, and deposit information) and examinations of invoices to see if only photocopies are present for some vendors are among the techniques used, but there are also simpler methods such as noticing which invoices don't match the regular quality of paper and forms generated by the company.

Bank statements, purchases of cashier checks or checks made payable to cash, bank deposit slips with remittance advices, cash receipts journals or accounts receivable postings, thefts at the receiving dock, and lapping (stealing payments from one customer and covering the theft with later collections from another customer) are also part of forensic accounting.

More esoteric are looking at fraud indicators: a high rate of employee turnover in the department handling accounting transactions (a manager is firing staff before they discover fraud); extravagant lifestyle of suspect employees; outstanding checks clearing after several months; too many checks bearing a second endorsement; excessive numbers of checking accounts with no apparent purpose; failure to use pre-numbered documents or failure to account for gaps in sequence; inventory shortages and overages; and increases in the average accounts receivable collection time.

If you enjoy number crunching along with the use of your skills in investigating, explore forensic accounting master's degrees offered by some universities. Here is a sample:

Purdue University Global (**purdueglobal.edu**) – Purdue University Global offers a Master of Science in Accounting with an Audit Specialization in regulatory procedures and tax analysis. The program can be done completely online or at one of the school's regional locations for local onsite study.

University of Scranton (**onlinescranton.com**) – The school's Master of Accountancy – Forensic Accounting degree involves four required courses, five concentration elective courses and a capstone research course. Work can be completed online on a flexible schedule to meet an individual's need. Students without a bachelor's degree in accounting are encouraged to enroll first in the "accounting bridge" program which provides a foundation in accounting.

Carlow University (**carlow.edu**) – The program leads to a Master of Science in Fraud and Forensics. It usually takes 12 to 14 months to complete in an entirely online format, with studies in risk evaluation, internal and external fraud investigations, and examination of policies and procedures. There are ten core courses for 30 credit hours in such areas as white collar crime, fraud, money laundering, auditing, and the dark Web. An optional Cyber Threat Research and Analytics track adds two courses in investigating digital financial threats.

Florida Atlantic University (**fau.edu**) – The Master of Accounting with a concentration in Digital Accounting Forensics and Data Analytics is a two year program which can be completed online or at the Fort Lauderdale campus. Coursework is

based on fraud investigation and prevention, dispute resolution, litigation support, valuation, expert testimony, and money laundering. The school's program was launched in 2017 in response to the now quickly growing need for accountants, auditors and investigators in financial crime and information.

Pfeiffer University (**pfeiffer.edu**) – The school's program is the first of its kind in North Carolina, offering a master's degree in Financial Fraud Investigations. Completely online, the curriculum core courses include corporate governance and controls, fraud analytics, and information analysis, followed by specializations in such areas as security assurance in cyber forensics, cybercrime, money laundering, and advanced topics in criminal investigation.

Deciding your route to a specialization in forensic science may be intricate and time-consuming work, but the school you choose must emphasize the application of the sciences and the methodologies needed to find evidence and to assure its truth for the judicial system. The term "forensic" is derived from Latin and means "in open court" and "relating to questions of law," so whether to solve crimes in the police and security realms or to resolve legal disputes in the civil realm, forensic work is a necessary part of the judicial system and the improvement of public safety. **P&SN**

Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D., JD, is a writer in the fields of law enforcement and security. She can be reached at drss12@msn.com.

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RALPH MROZ

A subject which has been discussed vigorously in police circles is that of career physical fitness standards for police officers. As disheartening as it is, some of the young men and women coming into police service today are in such poor shape that standards have had to be dramatically lowered in many places. Nonetheless, the idea has stayed alive, with more agencies placing a premium (literally, with bonuses) on physical fitness.

Arguments for Career Standards

When you really need a cop, you need physical intervention. Here's an old academy question for you: What makes a police officer a police officer? The badge? The gun? Nope. It's the arrest powers. That is, only a police officer can deprive a fellow citizen of their freedom. Your mayor doesn't have this power and neither does the governor. Even the President doesn't – only a police officer does. So, what makes a cop a cop is that he (or she) can arrest someone. Anyone can write citations; anyone can write reports; and anyone can perform investigations. Only a cop can slap cuffs on someone. Now, arresting someone is a physical activity and one in which much of the danger of the profession lies. Also, it's during an arrest that you are most likely to get into a fight with your suspect. Common sense would indicate that you'd want to be in good physical shape to do this and common sense would also suggest that your agency would only want to have physically fit officers doing arrests. So, when you are *really* a cop (when you're arresting someone), you are engaged in strenuous (or potentially strenuous) activity and physical fitness counts.

If you needed to be fit to get into the academy, then why not now? Well, at least police academies *used* to have physical fitness standards that weren't a joke. Some still do. Presumably, these standards exist because some reasonably smart people (or maybe just people with some common sense) decided that cops should be fit. Well, if being fit is a requirement of the job, then it's a requirement of the job. To argue otherwise argues for eliminating fitness standards for academy entrance to begin with and few people would argue that.

Overweight, out of shape cops are a danger to themselves. If you get into a foot chase, or just a high stress event, with a portly officer, you'd better hope you remember CPR and that there's a defibrillator unit nearby. This is just basic health: Being overweight makes you much more susceptible to heart attacks under stress.

If they are a danger to themselves,

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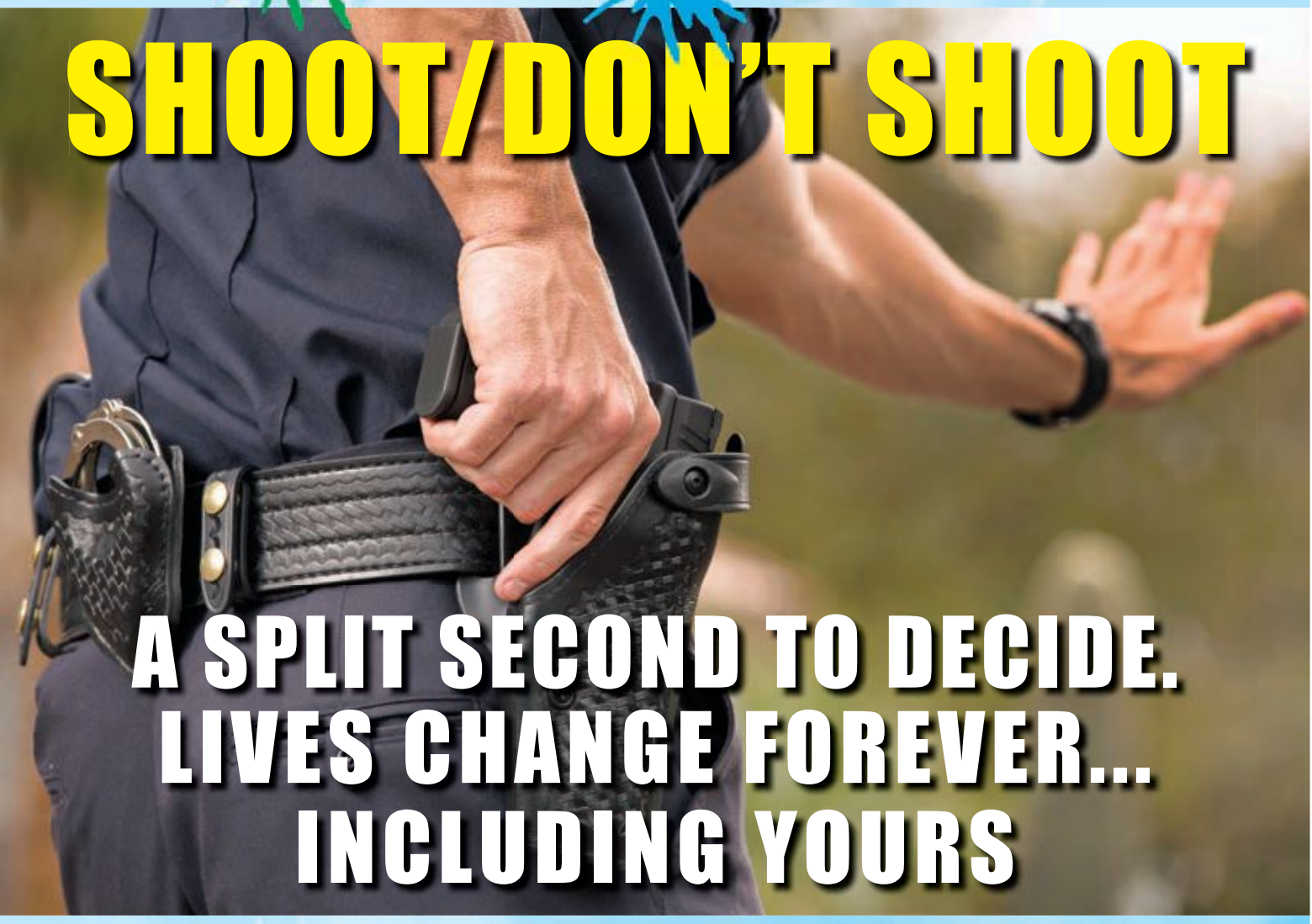

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they are a danger to you. If your paunchy partner is the guy you're relying on to help you make the arrest, run the suspect down, or return fire effectively, and he goes down, it's not good for either your survival or your success chances.

Police officers are supposed to be role models. This is self-explanatory.

Arguments Against Career Standards

You can do your job just fine out of shape. Well, obviously this isn't entirely true because, more or less by definition, the physical parts of the job are better performed by physically fit officers. On the other hand, many heavy cops do just fine in street fights and many are excellent shooters. So long as they don't overly exert themselves, they can be fine. Besides, much of the job isn't physical at all. The fact is that most cops spend the majority of their day sedentary. This is more true as you progress up the ranks and many command officers (and some officers working special assignments) are never on the street at all and are never in any more danger, nor do they have to perform physical work more than the average citizen. In fact, some of the very best command officers I've worked with are on the heavy side. Several of them, in fact, I'd very much want with me in a bad situation.

Some people are naturally heavy. I used to say *BS* to this, but I'm becoming more aware of the simple fact that some people are genetically more susceptible to gain weight than others. On the other hand, even in those cases, diet and exercise can pretty much keep these people fit, but admittedly their diet has to be more severely restricted than it does for naturally thin people. Our society is full of crappy food and eating healthy can seem difficult. On the other side of that proposition, however, is the fact that healthy food is now widely available and requires just a little effort to get. The key is to understand the biochemistry of weight gain and there is a lot of bunk out there on the subject. MDs used to preach that all diets were fads and that it was a simple matter of eating fewer calories than you expended. We now know that's not true and that the situation is much more complicated. I don't want to make this a treatise on the science of weight loss, but I will say that we know a whole lot more about it now than we did just a decade ago.

Getting heavier is a fact of life as you age. This is true to an extent, since your metabolism slows down and key hormone concentrations (such as testosterone) drop precipitously as you age. But, much of this can be controlled with diet and exercise and helpful nutritional supplementation is hardly voodoo (but it is a complex topic). With a little research and good advice on the subject, you can mitigate many of the effects. Also, exercise plays a key role in mitigating age-related weight gain.

What's Preventing Cops from Staying Fit?

Laziness/complacence. Enough said.

Our unions. Hey, *I'm* the guy who unionized my agency, so I'm hardly anti-union. But, when the unions say that we can't be required to be sprayed if we carry OC, or can't be required to be tased if we carry a TASER®, they do us a disservice. Likewise, when they say that physical fitness standards can't be mandatory, they are actually hurting the members who will stay unfit and/or otherwise unhealthy.

Our lack of free time. This is the big one, I'm convinced, and it's one for which I have tremendous sympathy. This cause – lack of free time – is intimately tied to the low pay of many police jobs. Cops routinely work forced, or otherwise required, overtime and many work overtime by choice just to make a decent yearly wage. If you only work eight hours a day or 40 hours a week, you'd have the same time available to you to get to the gym, to shop for healthy food, to go for a run, etc., as the normal person. But, if you are working two shifts a day, or four to five hours of overtime a day, well...there's only so many hours in any day and something's got to give.

How Do We Get Cops Fit?

There are apparently some legal issues with *requiring* fitness standards and, of course, there's usually union opposition. Police officers are like all human beings in that they respond to incentives

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and many agencies have taken the step of offering bonuses to officers who meet a (usually fairly easy) fitness standard. Naturally, the greater the incentive, the more officers will participate. This is a great deal all around; everyone wins: the officers, the agency, the insurance carriers, and the taxpayers. So, I strongly encourage officers to push their agency to institute a generous fitness incentive.

Installing weight rooms in the agency is also a good idea in that it will get some officers to work out who might not; although, I know many officers with nice weight gyms in their department who prefer to join a local gym instead *just to get out of the building*.

Many tactical teams have workout time built into their paid shifts. That's something to think about next time your contract is up for negotiation. What if you had a half hour of paid workout time every shift?

It is important to realize that, for most officers, getting and staying reasonably fit is not a lot of work, nor is it expensive. It takes some discipline, but anything that's worth anything does. One half hour a day will usually do the trick. That's not much to add to your life in most cases. I mean, asking someone to sacrifice two hours of sleep a night would be asking a lot, but getting up a half hour earlier or watching one half hour less of TV? I agree that not *everyone* actually has a half hour to give up per day, but most of us do, especially if it's for something important and there's precious little which is more important than our own health.

The cost is also minimal – you can run for the cost of a pair of shoes a year; weight workouts can be done quite effectively at home with just body weight exercises; and gym memberships are pretty reasonable in most places. Finally, eating right (and certainly eating less) won't increase your food budget by much, if at all, and any increase will be offset by not eating junk.

So, career fitness standards for cops? I can't think of a good reason why not. **P&SN**

Ralph Mroz was a police officer (part-time) in Massachusetts for 20 years, seven of which he was assigned to his county's drug task force. He has taught at a number of national, regional and international law enforcement conferences. Ralph now has three new books available on Amazon: Street Focused Handgun Training (Volumes 1, 2 and 3)*, as well as two newly republished books:* Defensive Shooting for Real-Life Encounters, *and* Tactical Defensive Training for Real-Life Encounters*, which are also available on Amazon.*

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HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE WITH FIREARMS – PART 2

MIKE BOYLE

These days, law enforcement officers are operating in an increasingly hostile environment.

Some law enforcement officials are saying that officers are being targeted like never before. In the first five months of this year alone, there have been 26 line of duty deaths attributed to gunfire (compared to a total of 49 in 2020). To follow are additional tips which can go a long way in keeping you safe in a worst-case scenario.

Don't Neglect Empty Hand Skills

It is commonly recognized that most police gunfights take place at relatively close range. Credible sources such as the FBI, the DEA and the NYPD tell us that the vast majority take place inside of seven yards, with a great many taking place close enough that you can reach out and touch your adversary. Just about all law enforcement firearms training programs contain a component on close quarters shooting, but it has been my observation that the vast majority do not take it far enough.

We all recognize that action beats reaction. The very nature of police work has officers in close proximity to subjects while performing all sorts of routine tasks, such as checking credentials, conducting field sobriety tests or rendering first aid. Should someone launch a spontaneous attack inside of close quarters – either with or without a weapon – an officer will be way behind on the curve.

Many officers suffer from the mistaken notion that the fact that they have a gun means they are in control. Should that gun be secured in that Level III security holster, the odds of you getting it into action before your adversary hurts you are pretty slim. In short, you will have to fight it out to buy a precious second or two before you can access your higher power and get it into play.

Should an adversary enter your personal space, it's a pretty safe bet he is not armed with a gun. Perhaps he is looking to hit you with a piece of rebar, stick you with a long screwdriver, or take your gun. Your first consideration is to stop the attack. What is the likely angle of attack? Stop the initial threat and disable your adversary.

Contrary to popular opinion, one does not have to study martial arts for years in order to defend against a close quarters attack. Stop the initial attack and immediately counter with a head butt, fingers, palms, hammer fists, and knee thrusts. Do something as fast as you can and as hard as you can. The goal is to interrupt your adversary's vision, breathing and balance. If you can accomplish this, it will allow you time to get to your handgun and, if necessary, deliver deadly force.

Recognize that there is no single extreme close quarters shooting technique which will work in every conceivable situation. Proximity, type of weapon used by the assailant, angle of attack, and the immediate environment will dictate which technique may be best. Commonly utilized shooting platforms include firing from the retention position, driving forward and shove and shoot. Get familiar with all of them and know where they fit best.

Until we bridge that gap between empty hand and firearms skills, officers will continue to come up short. Practicing a few basic striking techniques while standing in front of a target is yet another way to take your training to the next level.

Practice Precision Shooting

Precision can be defined as a quality of being minutely exact or precise. When we think of precision shooting, things like bull's-eye targets, highly specialized target pistols and liberal time frames come to mind. But, is there a spot for working some precision skills into a law enforcement officer's training regimen? You bet!

As indicated earlier, most exchanges of gunfire involving the police take place at relatively close range. The marksmanship problem isn't especially difficult; however, there is some urgency in getting those shots off relatively quickly. A coarse index of the gun on the threat will probably get the job done, but, while this represents a big part of the police experience, it's not quite the whole picture. Consider for a second a threat in the distance or a hostage taker at seven yards with only part of his vital area partly exposed.

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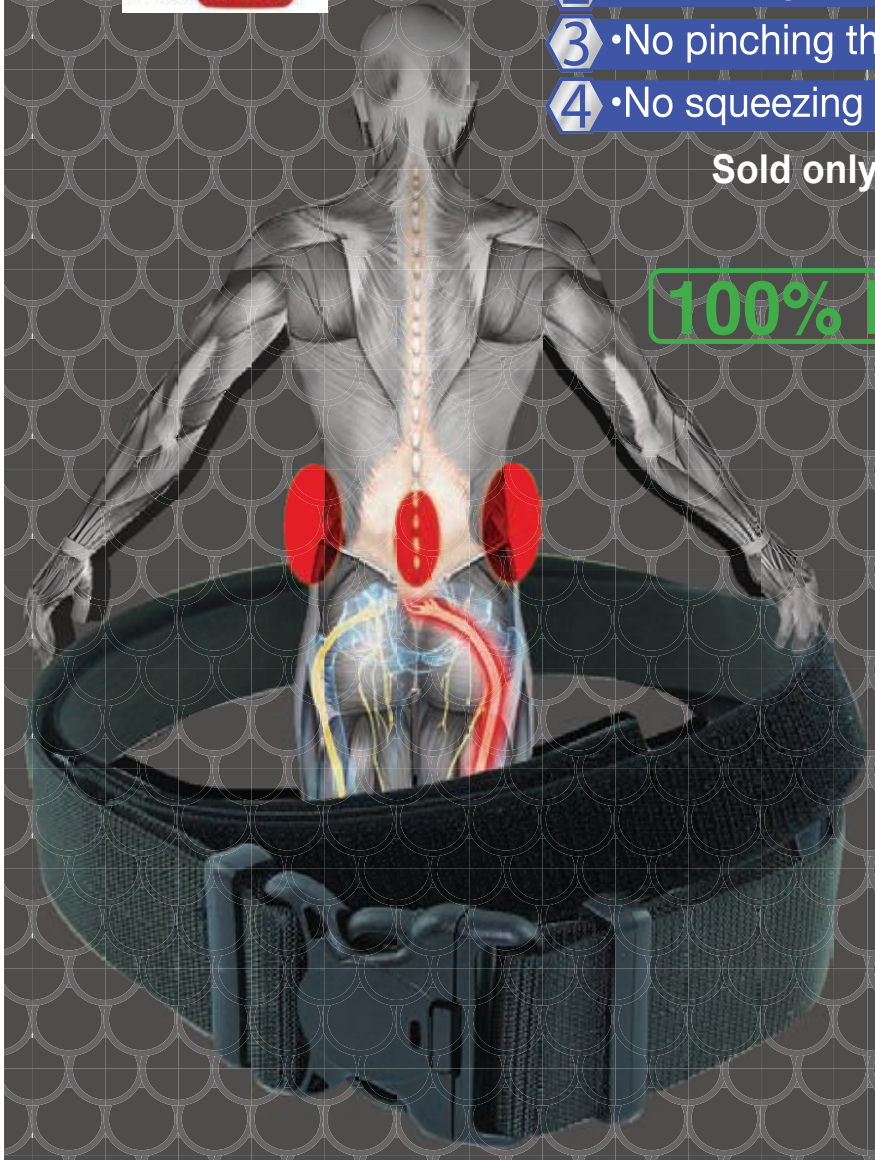

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Continued from page 30

Close quarter training techniques should integrate both empty hand and firearms skills.

training sessions, I like to include a precision drill in which officers have to fire at a target containing numbered circles, small dots or B8 centers. Not "tactical," you say? But, it does reacquaint them with those fundamentals of grip, trigger control and managing the sights. In my book, that's a big plus and the results speak for themselves. When these same skills are applied to a dynamic training scenario, officers perform at a higher level because they are confident they can shoot at speed and still hit.

All sorts of free precision targets can be found online, so break out of that qualification trap and try something different. I also find precision shooting to be a great diagnostic tool for fixing problems. Once you can hit the one inch circle at three yards, tagging the full-size silhouette at 25 yards is a piece of cake.

Shoot Faster

Over 30 years ago, I sat on a committee to devise statewide qualification standards for both police academy recruits and in-service training. One of the many points of contention among the participants was the time frame allowed to complete a particular phase. Our product had to be a one size fits all, as many outfits were still running revolvers. To cut right to the chase, allotted time frames were generous. Unfortunately, the standard was never updated and, as a result, many coppers never felt the need to train at "game speed." Their sole concern was to fire a high score which meant using all the available time to keep as many shots as possible in the center

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of the target. Sadly, this is not a localized trend and I have noted this in other parts of the country as well.

Many casual observers have noted that, while police qualification scores often run in the 90% range, real-world hit performance in actual gunfights is much lower. Consider that police qualify under optimum conditions while the unforgiving real world isn't nearly as accommodating; light is likely to be poor; action unpredictable; and, before you draw, the bad guy has already initiated the action. Precious little time is available and, in order to prevail, you need to get some hits on the threat in the shortest possible time frame.

Over the years, I have used a number of tricks to get officers to shoot faster and still hit. One of my favorites is something called a "Count Drill" and it goes something like this. Three different phases are fired at progressively faster cadences. I typically use an 8" x 11" sheet of paper with three vertical bars, although small six inch paper plates will do. Targets are affixed to a backer five to seven yards away and the shooter comes to a ready position. On the fire command, the shooter counts off one Mississippi, two Mississippi, etc. to establish a shot cadence. Five shots are fired with split times running up to 1.5 to two seconds. On the next phase, the shooter counts off one, two, three, etc. for five more shots. The shot cadence is roughly half that of the initial phase. To wrap it up, five more shots are fired by counting off one, two, three, etc., again cutting the split times between the shots in half.

Did all the shots hit the target? If not, when did you start to miss? Bear in mind that this is a more challenging target than a police silhouette. If we find we are putting all of our hits on the target, increase the speed or take a couple of steps back. Missing in training is okay. If we don't push it, we'll never know the limits to our own ability. This will help you come to terms with your own mental clock and give you greater insight into how fast you can shoot and still hit.

Running your qualification course at double speed is yet another simple and effective way to test your skills. If you really want to jump into the deep end of the pool, try your hand in some practical pistol competition. Hitting and shooting fast is the name of the game and, although you may not win any prizes shooting with your duty gear, it does help put things in perspective. I'm just happy scratching out a credible performance! P&SN

Different types of targets can be used to practice precision shooting.

Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.

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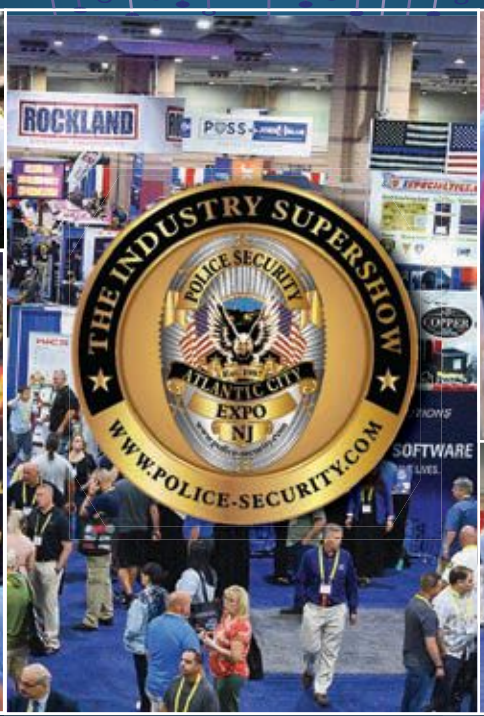

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NOTE: Exhibitor names and booth numbers are subject to changes and/or revisions.

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Collective health protection will be emphasized through the addition of appropriate hand washing/sanitizing stations and practices.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Room #317
Supercharged Digital Investigations – Search Any Data Anywhere
Digital Intelligence and Investigative Software Search and connect to any available data service to query and uncover links between people, objects, locations, and events.
Presenter: John Marley (Chorus Intelligence)

12:30 p.m. Entranceway
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12:30 p.m. Seminar/Demo Area "A"
Transparent and Mirror Image – Changeable Message Signs
The new version of the TRANSFIX™ Changeable Message Sign with Stealth Screen™ will be unveiled. Screen size can now be molded to the same shape and size of any vehicle's rear window to display messages to inform drivers of approaching vehicles about the conditions ahead without blocking the rear view mirror. The entire rear window can be used as a lightbar and traffic advisor. A programmable bicolor visor sign which can display text such as "POLICE/STOP" in regular or a mirror image will be shown.
Presenter: Joseph Wozniak (Policforce)

1:00 p.m. Booth #919
911 Tribute
Presenter: Block Communications

1:30 p.m. Room 307
Building Self-healing Communities
Understanding the NEAR – this seminar will discuss the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on neighborhoods and how ACEs impact the brain and influence behavior.
Presenter: Dave Ellis, Executive Director (State of NJ – Division of Children and Families – Office of Resilience)

2:30 p.m. Room #308/309
Fairleigh Dickinson University, School of Public and Global Affairs Panel Discussion
As a police officer, your mind is on a number of things related to the tasks needed. One thing you should consider is preparing yourself for your future which means making yourself more employable and not just employed. It also means to prepare yourself to be in place for a promotion to the next rank or for your career after retirement. This involves some planning on how to accomplish that goal. This session reviews steps which you can take to ensure that you are considered for that next step within the organization. If you plan for the future and prepare for advancement, there is no guarantee that you will be promoted, but failure to plan may exclude you from consideration. Included will be topics such as training and education to advance yourself; marketing yourself with your résumé and cover letter; preparing for the application and testing process; and interviewing. This session provides insights from some who have "been there, done that" in the law enforcement area.
Speakers on the panel include:
Paulette Laubsch, Ph.D., Professor and Panel Moderator, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Paul Cell, IACP past President and Board Member, Ray Davis, Retired Chief of Police, Egg Harbor Township, Bub Kovacs, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University

3:00 p.m. Room #310
RFID Asset Management Software and Weapons/Tactical Gear Storage
Cutting-edge technology for law enforcement: Are you looking for a better way to store and manage your equipment? Join National Office Systems and Datum Storage Solutions to learn more about RFID asset tracking and custom storage solutions for weapons, tactical gear and evidence.
Presenters: Dave Compere (National Storage Systems, Inc.)
Gary Myrick (Datum Storage Solutions, Inc.)

3:30 p.m. Seminar/Demo Area "A"
The G.L.O.V.E. (Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter) – Nonlethal Technology
The G.L.O.V.E. is available to help officers quickly and harmlessly bring individuals into custody. The force multiplier G.L.O.V.E. quickly transforms into a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) to supplement existing intermediate tools within law enforcement, corrections, security, EMS, and the military.
Presenter: Jeff Niklaus (Compliant Technologies)

Wednesday, AUGUST 25, 2021

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

11:30 a.m. Room #310
RFID Asset Management Software and Weapons/Tactical Gear Storage
Cutting-edge technology for law enforcement: Are you looking for a better way to store and manage your equipment? Join National Office Systems and Datum Storage Solutions to learn more about RFID asset tracking and custom storage solutions for weapons, tactical gear and evidence.
Presenters: Dave Compere (National Storage Systems, Inc.)
Gary Myrick (Datum Storage Solutions, Inc.)

Ongoing Demos Booth #2223
The G.L.O.V.E. (Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter) – Nonlethal Technology
The G.L.O.V.E. is available to help officers quickly and harmlessly bring individuals into custody. The force multiplier G.L.O.V.E. quickly transforms into a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) to supplement existing intermediate tools within law enforcement, corrections, security, EMS, and the military.
Presenter: Jeff Niklaus (Compliant Technologies)

1:30 p.m. Room #307
Building Self-healing Communities
Understanding the NEAR – this seminar will discuss the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on neighborhoods and how ACEs impact the brain and influence behavior.
Presenter: Dave Ellis, Executive Director (State of NJ – Division of Children and Families – Office of Resilience)

2:30 p.m Seminar/Demo Area "A"
Transparent and Mirror Image – Changeable Message Signs
The new version of the TRANSFIX™ Changeable Message Sign with Stealth Screen™ will be unveiled. Screen size can now be molded to the same shape and size of any vehicle's rear window to display messages to inform drivers of approaching vehicles about the conditions ahead without blocking the rear view mirror. The entire rear window can be used as a lightbar and traffic advisor. A programmable bicolor visor sign which can display text such as "POLICE/STOP" in regular or a mirror image will be shown.
Presenter: Joseph Wozniak (Policforce)

Note: Seminars and Product Demos subject to change.

Other added attractions at PSE 2021 include the following:

Vintage Police Car Display

Complimentary Health Screenings Offered by Deborah Heart & Lung Center
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Live Performance Art – Sponsored by Setina Mfg.
Watch John Kiernan as He Paints an Original Mural During PSE 2021
John continues his devotion to art by creating national logos, murals and paintings which have helped raised money for the law enforcement community, including fallen officers and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Inaugural Patch Exchange – ADD-A-PATCH….TAKE-A-PATCH
Law enforcement patch collecting is a popular way to preserve both history and tradition. The hobby of collecting includes acquiring specific items based upon a particular interest of the collector. Here's an opportunity to trade your department's patches with others.

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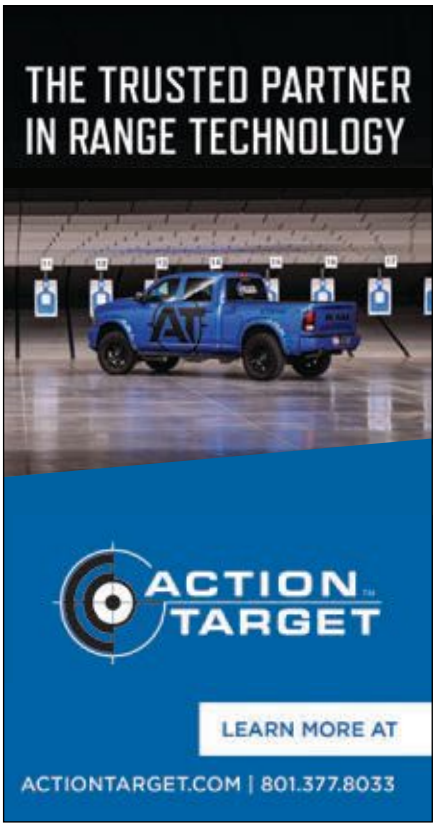

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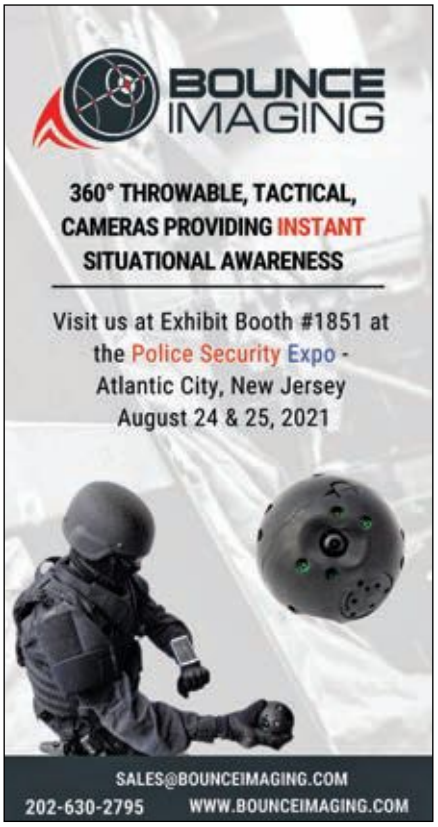
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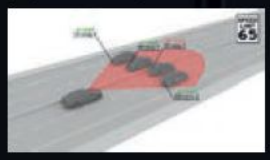

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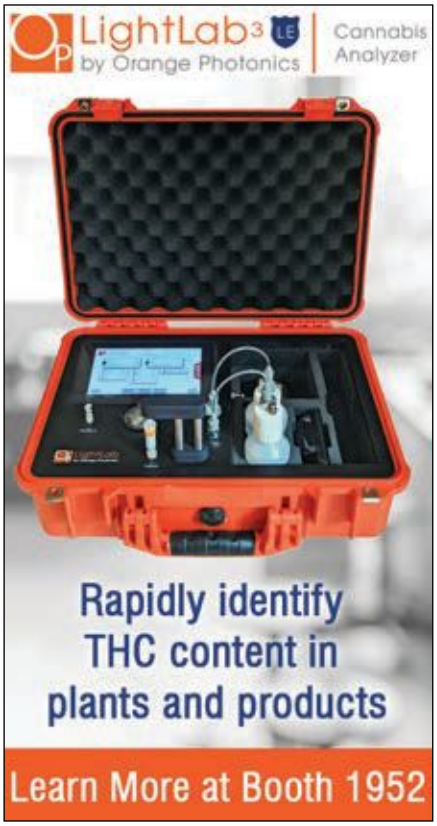
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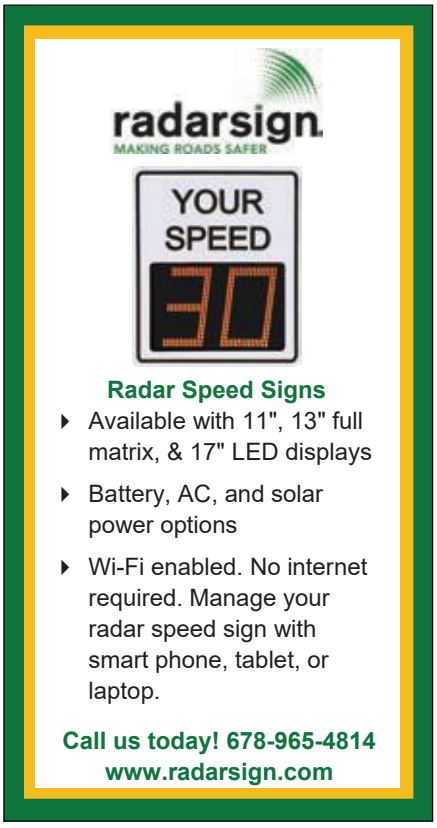
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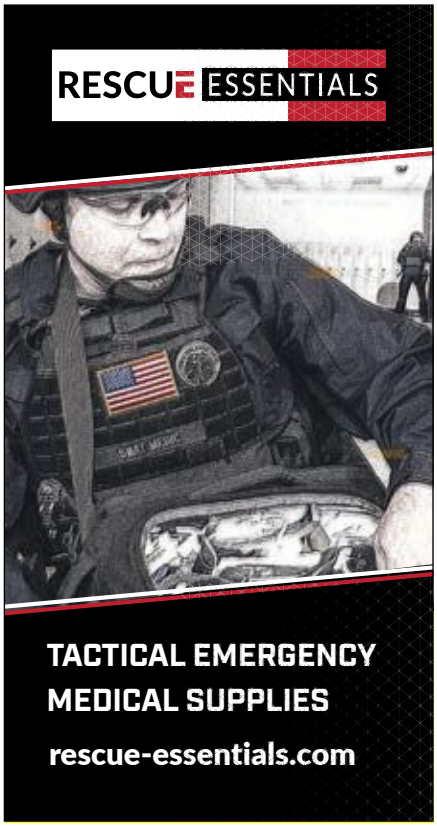

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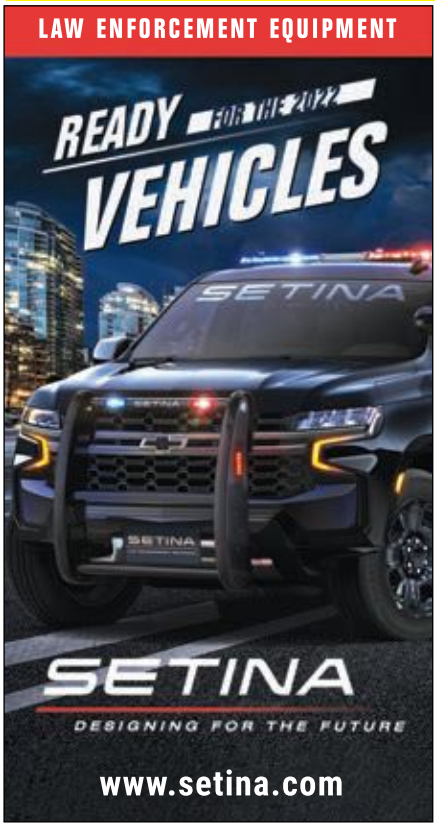

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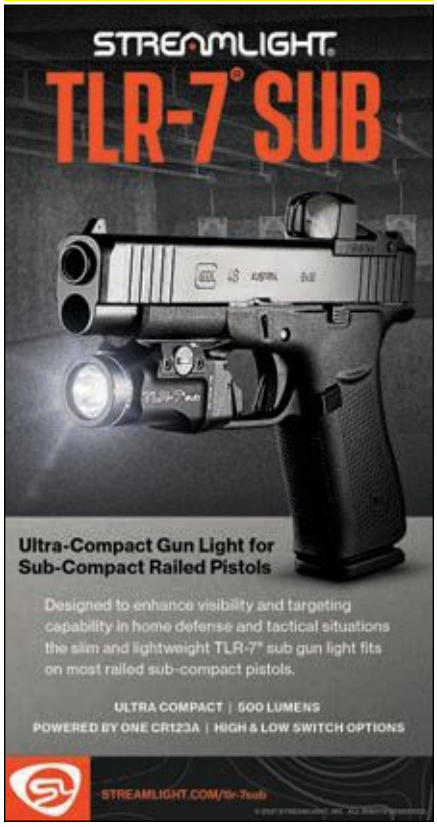
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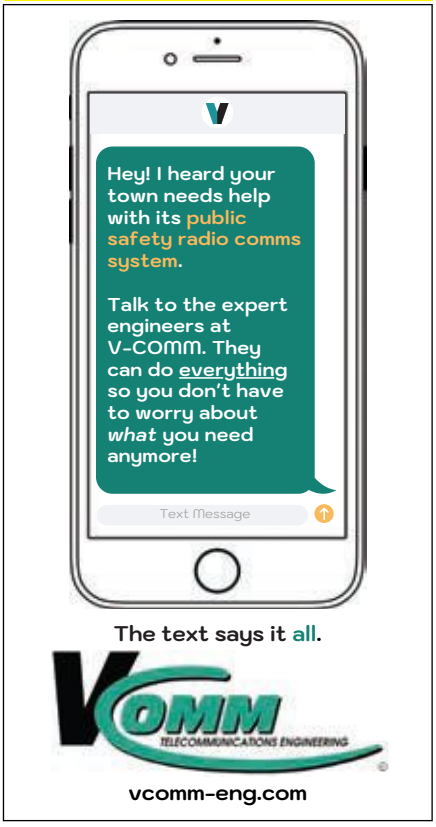
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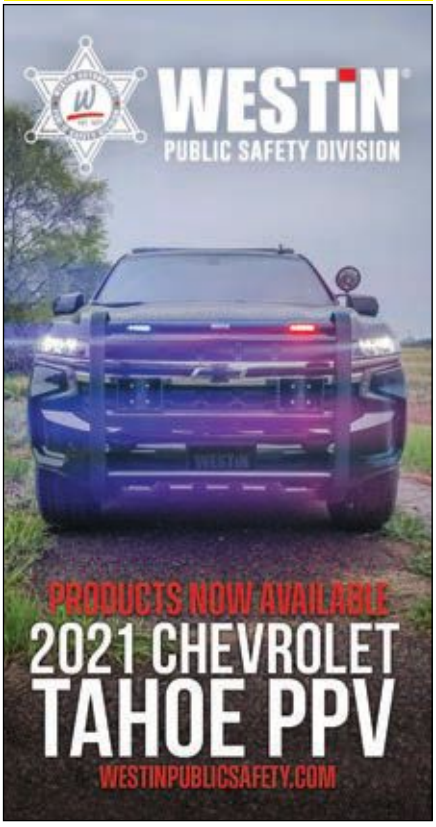
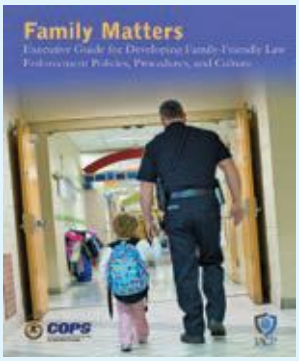


NEWS

New Publications Available on Law Enforcement Family Preparedness



The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Office recently announced the release of a publication suite focused on creating an organizational culture of wellness for officers and their support networks.

Law enforcement officers regularly experience stress and secondary trauma during their shifts and rely on their families and friends as a positive social support network to maintain holistic wellness. *Family Matters: Executive Guide for Developing Family-Friendly Policies, Procedures, and Culture* and its companion tools for families and agencies guide professional dialogue around holistic wellness innovations, best practices to support employees and their families, and opportunities within agencies to strengthen relationships with law enforcement families.

To download a copy of the publication suite, visit these sites:
https://tinyurl.com/4a7vscbk
https://tinyurl.com/dr92kumx
https://tinyurl.com/yn553s2f

Officer Safety App Now Available

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Program is now offering its VALOR Officer Safety App available via Google Play and the App Store. Preparation is the foundation of success in any profession. The VALOR Officer Safety App promotes mental and physical preparation to help you successfully meet the needs of the communities you serve each day. The app offers several features, including ways to prepare with the Daily Pre-Service Checklist; receive and save officer safety tips; access officer safety videos; listen to VALOR Voices podcasts; share VALOR publications; view upcoming VALOR events; receive VALOR announcements; and connect on social media.

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Guidance on Using ARP Funds to Reduce Violence

The Treasury Department recently started highlighting that communities experiencing a surge in gun violence as a result of the pandemic may use the American Rescue Plan's (ARP's) $350 billion in state and local funding for purposes such as:

- Hiring law enforcement officials – even above pre-pandemic levels – or paying overtime where the funds are directly focused on advancing community policing strategies in those communities experiencing an increase in gun violence associated with the pandemic.
- Additional enforcement efforts to reduce gun violence exacerbated by the pandemic, including prosecuting gun traffickers, rogue dealers, and other parties contributing to the supply of crime guns, as well as collaborative federal/state/local efforts to identify and address gun trafficking channels.
- Investing in technology and equipment to allow law enforcement to more efficiently and effectively respond to the rise in gun violence resulting from the pandemic.

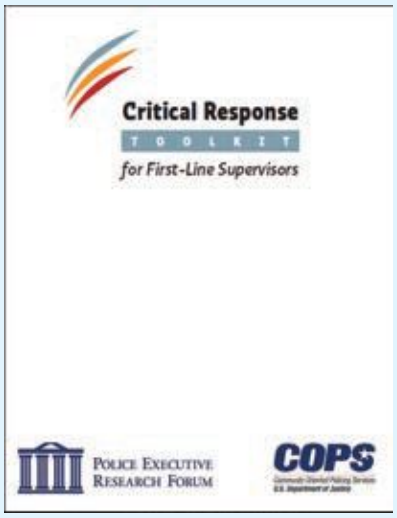
In addition, the Treasury Department is clarifying that any community may use ARP state and local aid for the aforementioned strategies and any other public safety programs, up to the level of revenue loss the jurisdiction experienced during the pandemic. And, any community may use ARP funds to rehire police officers and other public servants to restore law enforcement and courts to their pre-pandemic levels.

For further information, visit **https://tinyurl.com/rh924yv9**

The fact sheet concerning the Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety can be found at **https://tinyurl.com/fzv5ut9m**

Critical Response Toolkit for First-line Supervisors

Published by the Police Executive Research Forum, this toolkit discusses how first-line supervisors are essential to critical incident response. When major events occur, the first officers on-scene will look to their sergeants for direction, and the first-line supervisor will likely be the incident commander on-scene during event response. The toolkit includes topics such as preparation before a critical incident; how to handle a critical incident; and what to do following a critical incident. The toolkit was designed with the input of an expert team of 15 active law enforcement supervisors and executives, as well as site visits to five agencies: the Camden County (New Jersey) Police Department; the New York City Police Department; the Tucson (Arizona) Police Department; the Metropolitan Nashville (Tennessee) Police Department; and the Harris County (Texas) Sheriff's Office.



To download a copy of the toolkit, visit **https://tinyurl.com/5dzxv6sc**

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Photos: Curtis McCain (curtnova.com)

THE CONTROVERSIAL USE OF SPIT MASKS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT – PART I

John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D. and A. David Berman, CLS, M.S. ©2021. A.R.R.

This first part of a two-part series discusses how to increase your safety using spit masks, reviews what spit masks can and cannot do to protect you from viruses, how they are designed, and medical and mental health concerns about their application. In Part II, spit mask application and removal and storage guidelines will be discussed, including the need for spit mask policy, training and competency-based testing.

What immediately comes to mind when you see a person spitting? It's disgusting. Yet, we have all done it, whether it was to get rid of a small insect which flew into our mouth or for other reasons. Sometimes, and often deliberately, saliva is aimed at people of authority such as first responders (e.g., Law Enforcement Officers [LEOs], EMS professionals, jail officers). Spitting is repulsive; is often a crime (assault or battery); is a use of force: and it can transmit some diseases. We have various governmental bodies which required all to wear a "face" mask as a prophylactic measure to avoid involuntarily transmitting the coronavirus through airborne transmission. A similar preventive measure to stop or reduce the deliberate transmission of saliva is putting "spit" masks or hoods on subjects who threaten to spit, or do so, at LEOs and other first responders.

High-profile Spitting Incidents

Several high-profile arrest-related or in-custody death incidents when spit masks were associated have occurred across the United States, including Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Indio, California, in 2021; Rochester, New York, and Tucson, Arizona, in 2020; Sacramento, California, and Florida in 2019; Pleasanton, and Alameda County, California, in 2018; and Fairfax County, Virginia, in 2015. International, national and local media coverage, not to mention social media posting of videos, have caused the use of spit masks to appear under the public microscope. Often, medical examiners have fueled spit mask criticism by ruling that these items have contributed to a person's death.

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SPIT HAPPENS™!!! The Controversial Use of Spit Masks by Law Enforcement – Part I

Continued from page 48

Avoid using the term "spit hood," as it might convey a negative impression (photo taken at Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq, 2003).

Spit Masks Defined

Spit masks have many labels which include "spit hoods," "spit guards," "spit shields," "spit socks," and specific brand names (e.g., Safariland® *TranZport Hood*™ and RIPP™ *Protection Mask*). The Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD) defines spit masks as commercially manufactured, temporary (single use), protective, generally synthetic, small woven mesh devices which are physically placed over a person's head and facial areas intended to prevent or reduce the transmission of oral, nasal and/or facial bodily fluids (e.g., blood). Their purpose is to minimize the spread of infectious disease which may be caused by human spitting, biting or physical contact.

Historical Perceptions

Given the number of recent high-profile law enforcement incidents involving "spit masks" which were associated with arrest-related deaths, the media and the public often think masks are the same as hoods. They are not the same. Hooding has a long history, as do masks, but hoods often evoke negative feelings because they are often associated with torture (think Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq), with executions (think hooded and hanged Lincoln conspirators) and with organizational costumes (think Ku Klux Klan).

Supporting negative public perceptions are prohibitions against "hooding" individuals. For example, the United Nations considers the placing of a hood on individuals as cruel and harsh treatment. The American Bar Association (ABA) and the State of Texas Administrative Code are other examples of entities having restrictive guidelines about prisoner treatment.

Hoods also have a positive image. Reading *Little Red Riding Hood* as a child or to children generates favorable memories about the hooded young girl. Getting hooded at a graduate school ceremony is another fond memory.

Although there are positive images and perceptions about wearing hoods, we highly recommend avoiding the label hood in written reports, in media releases or when speaking about using masks. Spit masks are not hoods, regardless of the brand name.

Increase in Spitters and Biters

Fear of contracting the coronavirus is a reported reason LEOs have been arresting more people who threaten to spit at officers, do spit at them, or threaten to bite them. Although the frequency of people spitting at LEOs is unknown, several scientific studies provide insight on this repulsive and often criminal behavior. One study by the London Metropolitan Police Federation (n = 5572) in 2021 found

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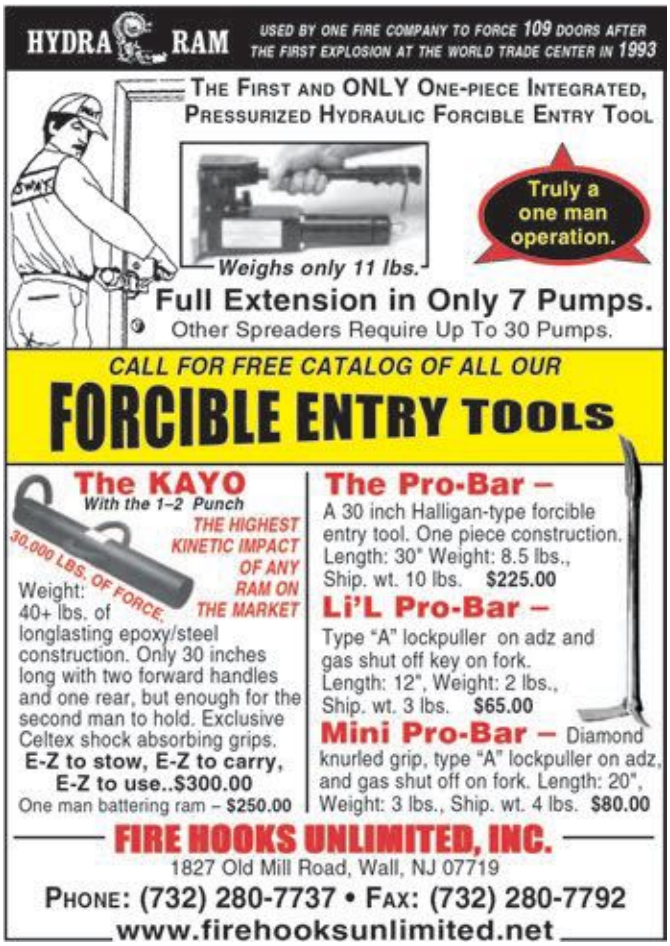
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that, in the previous two year period, 2331 (57.75%) of their LEOs were reportedly spat upon and 562 (40%) were bitten. Survey respondents claimed that, during the previous six months, approximately 30% of the people threatened to spit on them.

In a United States National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded study, approximately 1% (74) of the people arrested spat at or on an LEO (n = 7512). A 2021 study of LEOs in the United States found that in 10,000 use-of-force incidents, 3.6% involved spitting at officers and that spitting was common. Data show the frequency of spitting at officers was done by females in 18.1% of the time. People presumed to have mental illness spat at LEOs 5.2% of the time, while white subjects spat 3.9% compared to blacks at 3.1%, respectively.

The increased frequency of spitting at LEOs, coupled with the fear of contracting a disease, are reportedly two bases for increased "assault" arrests made by LEOs and for requesting employers to provide spit masks. A 2021 IPICD and Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. (AELE) national spit mask survey found the primary reason LEOs applied a spit mask to a subject was "to cover the person's mouth," followed by "the person had threated to spit on them." Survey data show 449 of the respondents (n = 523) were authorized by their law enforcement agency to use spit masks.

Use of Force and Spit Masks

Placing a spit mask over the head of an individual **IS** a use of force!

Surprisingly, 337 of the IPICD-AELE survey respondents (n = 523) thought it was not a use of force, with another 20 respondents who indicated, "Do not know." Like grabbing, proning, handcuffing, and/or grounding individuals, applications of spit masks are uses of force. LEOs must comply with Constitutional standards of care and with any applicable, more restrictive state statutory regulatory standards. LEOs are required to report the use of force per agency policy, procedure or rule (see *Iko v. Shreve*, 535 F.3d 225 (2008); *Jennings v. Fuller*, 659 Fed. Appx. 867 (2016).

Deputy sheriffs who work in a jail and correctional officers may be required by agency policy to put a spit mask over an inmate's head prior to moving him (or her) through the facility. Technically, this is a use of force, but noting it in a "transport" or "movement" report will usually suffice for force documentation purposes, unless more force had to be applied or the inmate suffered a medical emergency.

COVID-19 Concerns

There is no scientific evidence supporting the claims made by LEOs that spit masks prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Rather, scientific findings show that contagious viruses are often transmitted through small droplet aerosols which can pass through the mesh of some spit masks. The coronavirus, like influenza, is often transmitted by small, aerosolized droplets, often referred to as airborne transmission. Spit masks may be more effective in preventing the spread of other diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis.

On July 31, 2016, a Ukraine female police officer ultimately died after a suspect who had tuberculosis spat on her during a confrontation. While it is unknown if the subject was wearing a spit mask, it is important to know the diameter of the wo-

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SPIT HAPPENS™!!! The Controversial Use of Spit Masks by Law Enforcement – Part I

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The application of a spit mask over the head of an individual is a use of force.

ven mesh of spit masks which use this design. If a person can breathe through the woven mesh, then his (or her) breath can pass through it, too. Know the design specifications of the spit mask your agency provides and know its limitations and efficacy in preventing aerosolized droplets or spittle from penetrating it. Regardless of the spit mask design, droplets of oral, nasal or blood often become attached to the spit mask, thereby requiring the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, to remove, store and/or properly discard the single-use spit mask per biohazard protocols.

Spit Mask Characteristics

Spit masks come in a variety of styles, colors and designs. Those commonly used in public safety share a few common traits while other models are uniquely distinct. These shared characteristics include temporary, single use and synthetic woven mesh as the primary barrier to prevent fluids such as blood, saliva or mucous from passing through the mesh. Depending on the style and/or specs of the spit restraint device, the size of the woven mesh holes can vary. Keep in mind, if one can breathe through the mesh, then oxygen, microorganisms and liquids can pass through. As previously mentioned, the woven mesh openings do not stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Photo 1 is one example of many spit masks we have examined. As shown, most are simple sack-style devices using a synthetic woven mesh with an opening at the "bottom" for the subject's head to pass through. The "top" of the device is closed. Some models have elastic sewn into the hem at the bottom for a snug, but comfortable, fit around the person's neck. This elasticity helps the device to stay in place and to make it more difficult for the subject to remove it. Some brands are made in the United States while others are not. Spit mask product dealers and manufacturers include Stearns Wear, Inc., MTR, Humane Restraint, and others.

One product which is unique in appearance, design and function is the Safariland TranZport Hood, shown in Photo 2. Like other masks, the TranZport Hood is for single use and uses a synthetic woven mesh material to form a sack, but it has two safety features. One is an adjustable tab at the top of the mesh (head area) which can slide up or down so the woven mesh section has a "custom" fit. This enables visibility to be maintained and air to pass through the woven mesh.

Second, the lower portion of this product contains a soft, sewn in, dense, bacteria filtering, medical grade fabric designed to keep fluids from escaping (e.g., spittle) while making it virtually impossible for the subject to bite anyone or anything other than his own lip or tongue. The elasticized bottom fabric is approximately three inches wide and encircles the subject's neck area and can be positioned above the nostrils to lessen the likelihood of nose

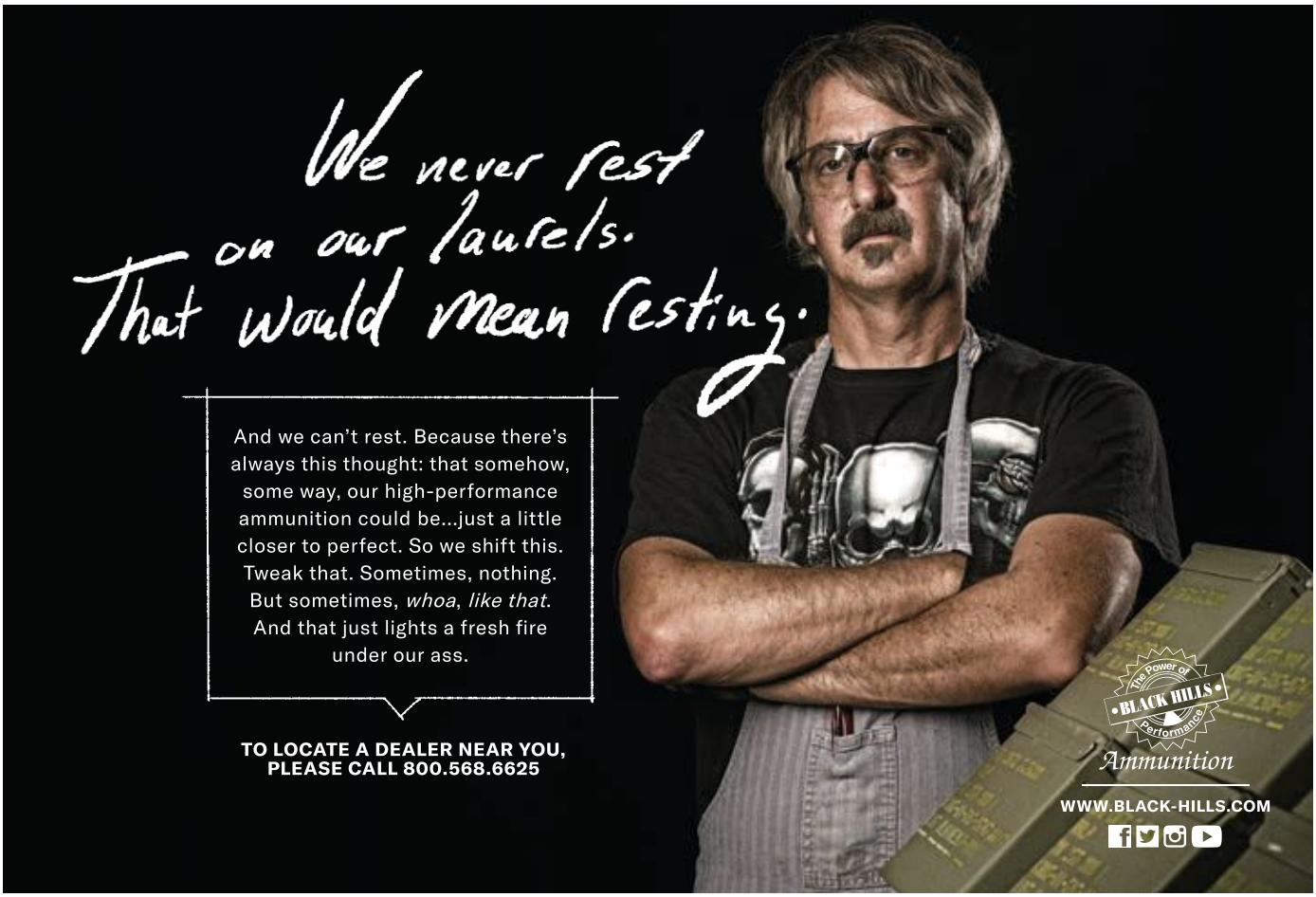
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Photo 1 – Spit masks come in a variety of styles and configurations.

liquids exiting and coming in contact with others. This type of spit restraint device has woven mesh construction like the others we examined, but additionally it has the "medical grade fabric" drape sewn to the sack which surrounds and covers the mouth and/or nose areas.

Two other devices are the Protection Mask from RIPP Restraints International, Inc. and the Chicago Face Shield for Infectious Disease Control. The RIPP Protection Mask is a one-piece, molded face mask made of opaque polyurethane. It has a thicker shell covering the nose and mouth with softer, more flexible, thinner portions which wrap partially around the face, secured by two thin elastic straps placed around the back of the head. There are holes in the nose and mouth areas of the mask for breathing and for air circulation.

The Chicago Face Shield product is a clear, thin plastic face shield approximately 12 inches square with foam padding for the forehead area and an elastic band to encircle the head. These types of face shields are common in dental and medical offices. This product is designed to be a shield, not a mask.

Space did not permit a review of every

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SPIT HAPPENS™!!! The Controversial Use of Spit Masks by Law Enforcement – Part I

Continued from page 53

Photo 2 – The TranZport Hood™ from Safariland® utilizes a bacteria filtering, medical grade fabric.

spit mask product, including those used overseas and unavailable in the United States. Regardless of the spit mask you use, before using it, get trained and qualified in its use.

Psychological and Medical Concerns

Spit mask application guidelines will be covered in Part II of this article; however, it is important for you to understand and appreciate potential psychological and medical concerns surrounding the application of spit masks. A 2019 pilot study (n = 15) about the psychological effects of placing a "spit sock" over the heads of healthy volunteers found no psychological concerns. The study did not include people with claustrophobia, autism, mental illness, or similar issues. For example, some people with autism resist anything being put over their head or touching their skin. They will act out, often in an agitated way. Similarly, people who are subject to panic attacks or who are claustrophobic may also become agitated.

Medical concerns following application of spit masks include watching the person for abnormal breathing; suffocation from aspiration of blood, vomit, etc.; choking because the person manipulated the spit mask material into the mouth and tried to swallow it; overheating; and/or continuously struggling against metallic or plastic restraint which can lead to sudden death.

Because bodily fluids may be attached to the mesh or other parts of the spit mask, wear PPE to avoid encountering these or other fluids. Because this is not an exhaustive list, you may consider enrolling in the IPICD *tuition-free* User-Level Spit Restraint™ ON-DEMAND program. Visit **www.ipicdtc.com** for more information. **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D. serves as president of the Henderson, Nevada-based international training firm, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. He also serves as Executive Director for the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc., a law enforcement educational provider. Dr. Peters is a frequent contributor to Police and Security News*; has been judicially qualified in international, state and federal courts; and is a former police administrator and officer.*

A. David Berman, CLS, M.S. serves as vice president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc., is a sworn Pennsylvania Constable, and a firearms instructor. He served 13 years on an Emergency Services Team while a police officer.

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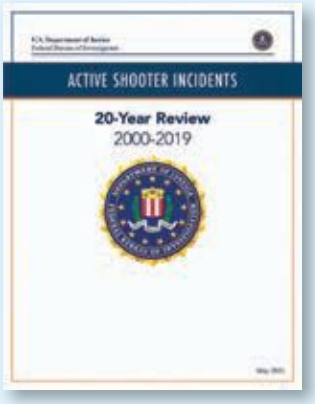
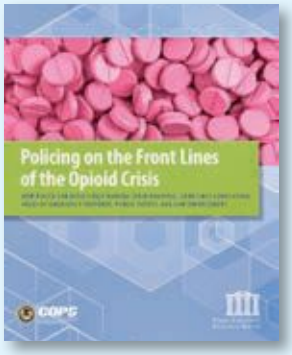


New FBI Report on Active Shooter Incidents

Produced by the FBI's Office of Partner Engagement, the report, "Active Shooter Incidents 20-Year Review, 2000–2019," encompasses statistical data regarding 333 active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2019. Each page focuses on a particular active shooter-related topic and has been designed specifically for law enforcement officers, other first responders, corporations, educators, and the general public.

To view a copy of the report, visit **https://tinyurl.com/yvpajfhc**

Policing the Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis



Published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), *Policing the Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis* discusses the role which law enforcement officers play on the front lines of the opioid epidemic. They are responsible for emergency response, preserving public safety and enforcing the law. This publication discusses the challenge of reconciling the conflicts which can arise among these roles and presents recommendations for alleviating these difficulties and improving law enforcement response to the opioid crisis.

Go to **https://tinyurl.com/yf5uetzj** to download a copy of this publication.

New Checklist to Assess Your Agency's Crime Analysis Capabilities

The Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center (BJA NTTAC) released a checklist which provides standard best practices which agencies of all sizes can implement in their crime analysis units. The checklist includes questions and recommendations which may help an agency increase the unit's effectiveness and capacity. Specifically, it includes recommendations for staffing, communication, crime analysis products, technology, and resources.

Visit **https://tinyurl.com/bmwdfjxa** to view the checklist.

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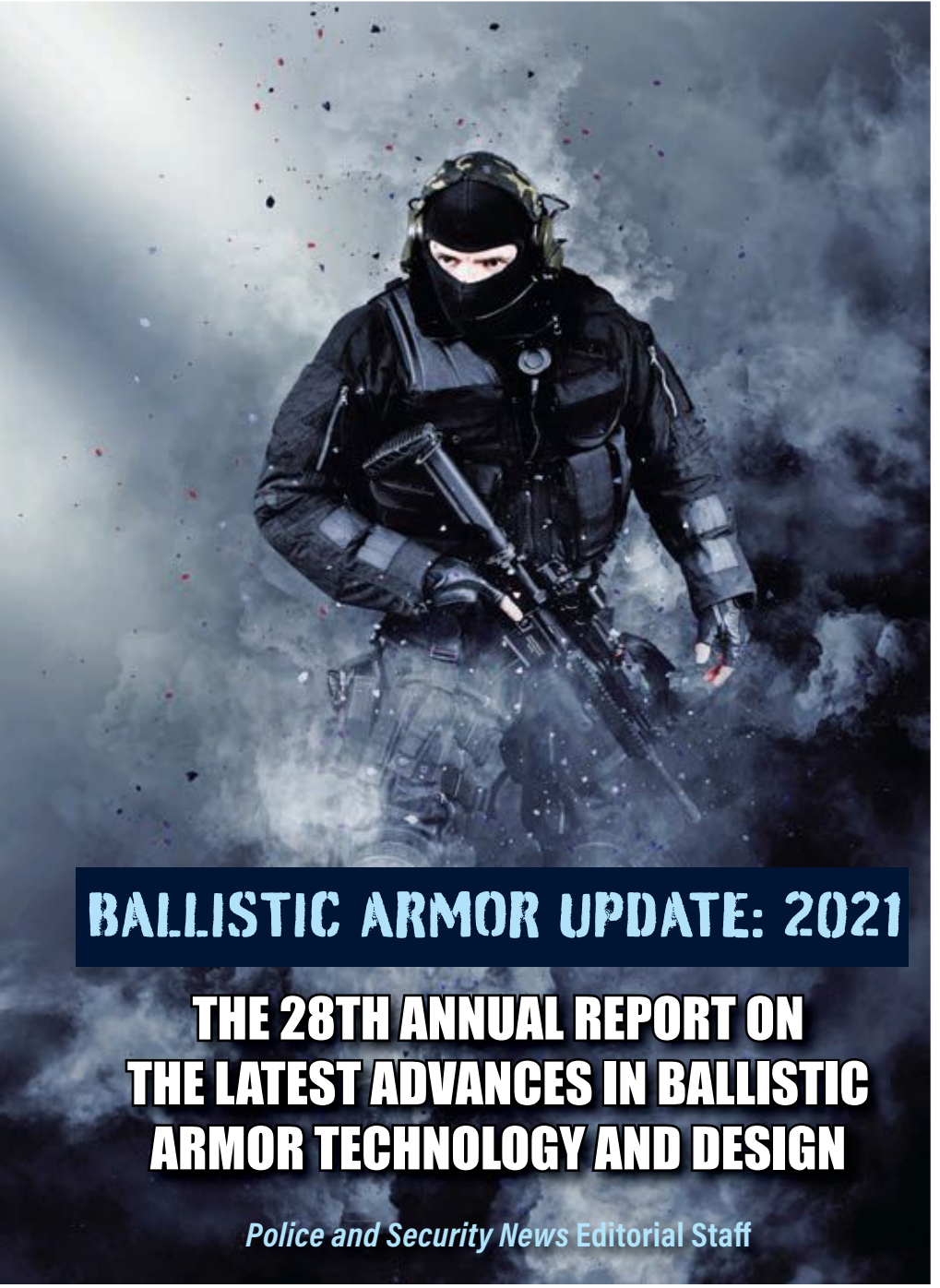


BALLISTIC ARMOR UPDATE: 2021

THE 28TH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LATEST ADVANCES IN BALLISTIC ARMOR TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

Police and Security News Editorial Staff

Image by Amaynut

It comes as no surprise that the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) revised ballistic-resistant body armor standard 0101.07 is still awaiting implementation. Announced back in 2018, the NIJ had planned to release a revised version of the current ballistic-resistant body armor standard in late 2020.

The new draft standard was developed through an NIJ Special Technical Committee (STC) made up of criminal justice professionals and testing experts. Following a public comment period, the STC and the NIJ undertook additional research to validate ammunition selection and will publish the standard upon completion of this research.

The STC took a critical look at NIJ Standard-0101.06 and, based on input from law enforcement, subject matter experts and test laboratories, made the necessary changes to address the needs the STC identified.

Some of the principal changes include an introduction of a robust test protocol for shaped or female body armor; a new naming convention – type/Level II, IIIA, III, and IV will be retired. The standard naming convention will become "HG" for handgun and "RF" for rifle. Examples include NIJ HG1.07, NIJ HG2.07, NIJ RF1.07, NIJ RF2.07, and NIJ RF3.07; plus the testing of hard armors has changed to accommodate the introduction of new test threats.

In the meantime, the current NIJ Standard-0101.06 is still in effect. The Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium continues to maintain a list of all brands/models of body armor which comply with the current standard. This list can be found at **https://tinyurl.com/pp8huznj**

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act

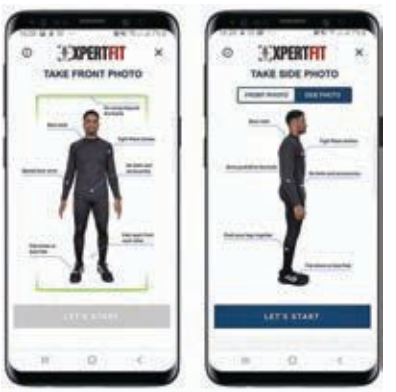
Since 1999, the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of $522 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,441,013) as of November 2020. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 BVP application funding period was open from April 29, 2021, until June 23, 2021. More information, including a complete list of FY 2020 BVP award recipients, can be found here: **https://tinyurl.com/dvd2fwbc**

No Touch Measuring

In December 2020, Flying Cross®, together with Safariland®, announced a collaborative launch (phase one) of a new virtual sizing technology called XpertFit. This technology transforms the process in which individual officers are sized for uniform apparel and body armor. XpertFit offers a touchless, self-measure method of capturing body measurements right from a mobile phone.

The process takes less than two minutes to complete from initiating the technology until the time you are provided with product sizing.

Individuals access the technology from a mobile device and choose their path to fit either uniforms or body armor. Next, the technology gathers general information and then takes a front and side profile picture. This is then used to calculate measurements based on its algorithm and it determines a recommended size for Flying Cross uniform apparel or Safariland body armor.



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Continued from page 56

NEW BALLISTIC PROTECTION PRODUCTS

ATCS is now offering a compact version of their foldable ballistic shield.

Advanced Technology Compliant Solutions

ATCS has recently introduced the Swift Shield™ Compact which is a lighter weight and smaller version of the origami-inspired foldable ballistic shield. The compact version is about 80 percent the size of the original Pro version and weighs only 4.8 lbs. It is only 3/8" thick, yet, when fully deployed, still provides 3.1 square feet of NIJ Level IIIA (NIJ-STD-0108.01) ballistic protection, stopping pistol rounds such as 9mm, .40, .45 and .357 Mag.

When folded down, the Swift Shield Compact version is only 9.2" x 14.8" which is about the same length and width as a notebook computer. (**atcompliantsolutions.com**)

BlueRidge Armor, LLC

A new industry first feature available from BlueRidge Armor is the 3D Shield Builder. This new Web-based service allows officers to customize their BlueRidge shield, including being able to view it in 3D before purchasing.

Users select their ballistic shield platform, viewport, handle and light combination, and see their selections assembled instantly in full 3D view. Buyers can select a size and see how the range of shields match up against one another. They can also choose from a range of colors and COREBOND™ large format ID. Plus, agencies can also send in their own artwork or logo to add to their personalized shield.

The TOMAHAWK hard armor ballistic shield is a flat, compact weapon mount platform in Threat Level III+ rifle protection. It is an ideal vehicle assault rifle shield which provides ultralight rifle rated protection at a moment's notice. Two size/

An industry first feature available from BlueRidge Armor is the 3D Shield Builder which enables a custom build.

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weight configurations are available: the 18" x 24" version weighs 12.5 lbs.; and the 20" x 30" version weighs 16 lbs. The TOMAHAWK shield provides a flat panel weapon mount (viewport not available) and a straight bar handle for carrying. It also features a 100 percent composite ballistic construction.

Also new from BlueRidge is the VENGEANCE™ series hard armor ballistic shield which features an ambidextrous weapon mount design in Threat Level III+ rifle protection, along with a well-designed viewport. This new shield provides optimized coverage area, speed to sight acquisition and good balance. Depending on the size, the VENGEANCE ballistic shields weigh anywhere from 19 to 26 pounds. (**blueridgearmor.com**)

Boydd Products, Inc.

The Compact Response Shield from Boydd comes in both 21" and 26" lengths, with a panel weight of 7.5 lbs. and 10 lbs., respectively. Originally designed for solo officer responses to active shooter incidents, this lightweight and compact shield can be quickly deployed and utilized for a variety of response options. According to the manufacturer, the shield does not utilize bolts, screws or holes with its ballistic rifle panels – eliminating common weak points.

New features for the Boydd Compact Response Shield include vehicle Door Window Straps.

New features which have become available include Kydex® Rifle Support Brackets; Door Window Straps which enable driver or passenger side window protection; a Load Bearing Shield Cover; and a Foxfury Shield Light. (**boyddshield.com**)

Diamond Age Corp.

Diamond Age is offering a Full-Cut model option of its NeoSteel™ Helmet. The ACH-style helmet is manufactured from advanced metal alloys and exceeds VPAM-3+ Special Threats ballistic requirements.

The NeoSteel Helmets weigh in at 3.25 lbs. with high levels of ballistic performance and minimal backface deformation and impact trauma. (**diamondage.org**)

GH Armor Systems

The PH4 First Responder Tactical Carrier is GH Armor's newest tactical carrier. Designed by a former tactical medic, the PH4 is a one-size-fits-all full coverage vest, available in Ballistic, Spike and Multi-Threat soft armor packages. The carrier is equipped with top-loading front and rear 10" x 12" plate pockets and is constructed of 1000 de-

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Continued from page 59

nier CORDURA® nylon. The PH4.FR is equipped with a rear drag strap for emergency extraction and telescoping padded shoulders for added comfort and weight distribution. (**gharmor.com**)

Hardwire®, LLC

Hardwire recently introduced its new NIJ-certified Level II soft body armor. Hardwire soft body armor began with US Special Operations Command and is now used by the Marine Corps and Army. The technology's military pedigree offers NIJ-certified ballistic performance along with up to 30% weight savings for the user. Made of Dyneema® fibers and pressed under 25 million pounds of force at precise temperatures, Hardwire turns multiple layers of material into a single system, resulting in up to 30% weight savings. This newest soft armor is also offered in an NIJ Level IIIA configuration. (**hardwirellc.com**)

Point Blank Body Armor

New from Point Blank is the Elite Gen V Concealable Carrier which features integrated Eurus Ventilation Panels. The surface area of these panels allows for air to flow through the material – cooler air enters and warm moist air exits through the ventilation holes. The surface material is antimicrobial and moisture-wicking, and the inner foam

The latest Elite GEN V concealable armor from Point Blank features Eurus Ventilation Panels.

material resists moisture absorption.

Also new is the K-9 Operations Vest (Threat Level II/IIA) which provides improved adjustability at the chest for a secure fit, as well as rapid donning/doffing. The outer shell is made from 500 denier CORDURA material which is abrasion-resistant and the split collar offers a full range of motion during tracking. (**pointblankenterprises.com**)

Safariland

Safariland has released two new highly customizable armor systems. The SHIFT 360™ is a scalable plate rack system which will accommodate multiple sizes ranging from small to extra-large SAPI plates. The lightweight flex internal lining system ensures a tight and secure fit and is available with either Advanced Webless MOLLE System with a new proprietary Divergent MOLLE in 500 denier CORDURA nylon or Traditional Modular Webbing.

The Gen 3 FAV (Fast Attack Vest) provides front, back, shoulder, and side soft armor ballistic coverage. The independent, bottom-loading front and rear rifle plate pockets accommodate 10" x 12" and SAPI plate sizes. Its new external cummerbund system provides enhanced fit and adjustability with proprietary attachment options for VELCRO® or FirstSpear® Tubes™. An internal flex pouch accommodates radio and accessory storage, while SWIFT Clip attachment offers compatibility with a variety of different pouch systems. (**safariland.com**)

ShotStop® Ballistics Technologies, LLC

ShotStop has recently announced the release of its Level IV HA Armor Piercing Advanced Body Armor Plates, made with Duritium® Technologies. Duritium is a portfolio of technologies including a proprietary formula of polyethylene fibers or ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene. These polyethylene fibers are woven and stacked by an advanced

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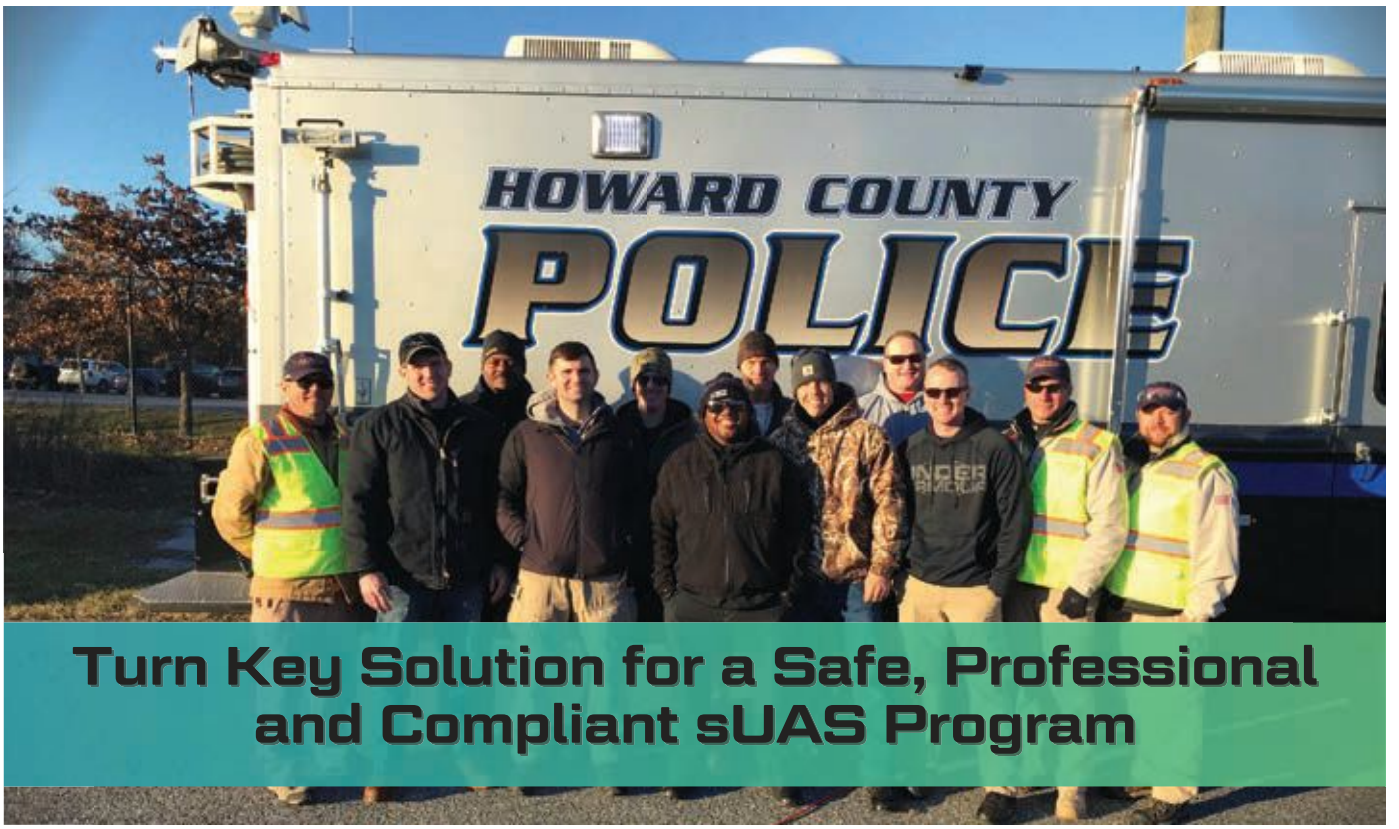

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layering process.

These new Level IV body armor plates are available in Shooter Cut and SAPI Cut, in six different sizes, and weigh in at only 4.5 lbs. (2.0 kg) with a low-profile thickness of 0.9". They provide multihit protection and can defeat a variety of special threats. (**shotstop.com**)

Spartan Armor Systems®

Spartan Armor Systems' new Hercules Level IV Ceramic Body Armor features a true multi-curve design. The Hercules offers full edge to edge protection, providing 10" x 12" edge of armor to edge of armor protection and is threat protection rated for armor-piercing rifles up to .30-06 M2 AP.

Hercules weighs in at just 6.9 lbs. per plate and is made from ceramic and UHMWPE materials, covered with 1000 denier CORDURA material. (**spartonarmorsystems.com**)

New Advanced Body Armor Plates from ShotStop® utilize ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene in their manufacturing process.

Tactical Medical Solutions®, LLC

TacMed Solutions' DKX M3 Series Ballistic Plates provide NIJ 0101.06 Level III stand-alone rifle protection. Positively buoyant, the plates provide users with flotation capability and blunt force trauma protection. At only 2.9 lbs., the M3 stops special non-armor piercing threats and is equipped with Radio Frequency Embedded Verification (RFEV) tracking for inventory management. A polyurea coating protects the plate from harsh conditions. (**tacmedsolutions.com**)

A Brief Reminder

FBI statistics show that from 1987 through 2015, over 92% of all felonious deaths of law enforcement officers in the line of duty in the US were due to firearms. However, analysis of 637 cases from FBI data when officers who were shot by a firearm in the torso found that those who wore body armor were 76% less likely to be killed than those who did not wear armor. P&SN

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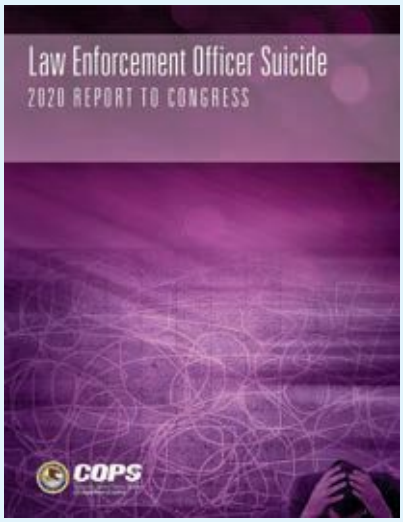
NEWS

New Report Available on Law Enforcement Officer Suicide



Published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), this report, "Law Enforcement Officer Suicide – 2021 Report to Congress," discusses suicide among law enforcement and ways to prevent thoughts of suicide from becoming actions. This report assesses the availability of existing mental health resources for law enforcement agencies. It provides a review of peer responder programs and makes recommendations for establishing evidence-based behavioral health and suicide prevention efforts for both law enforcement and other first responders, as requested in Senate Report 116-127 accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

To download a copy of this report, visit **https://tinyurl.com/2t8f88t6**

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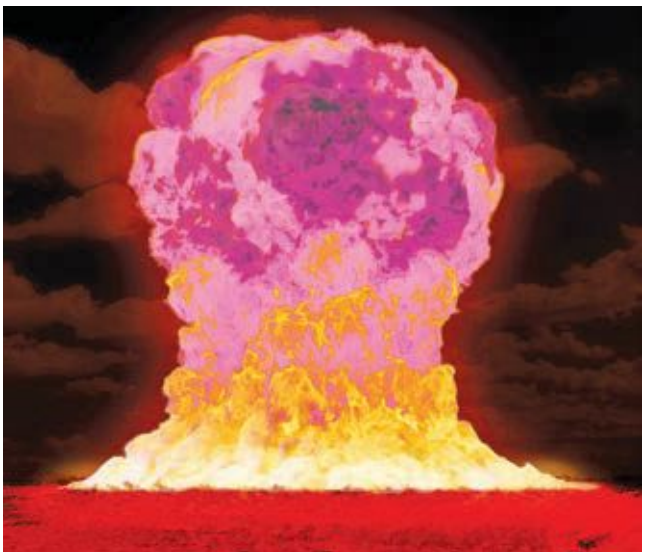

What happened to cakes with a secret color inside?...

A New Hampshire man has turned himself in to police after detonating 80 pounds of explosives as part of a gender reveal party held in a quarry. The explosion reportedly set off earthquakes in the area and the blast could be heard from across the state line. Police in Kingston (near the Massachusetts border) received reports of a loud explosion and responded to a quarry where they found people who acknowledged holding a gender reveal party with explosives. The family thought the quarry would be the safest spot to detonate the explosive (Tannerite®) which is typically sold over the counter as a target for firearms practice. Nearby residents said the blast rocked their homes and some reported property damage. The individual who bought and set off the explosives has turned himself in to police. *(Why is it that gender reveal parties seem to involve explosives, but baby showers don't? Is it because men are involved?)*

Hey, that's nacho truck!... An Oklahoma City man thought it would be a good idea to steal a Doritos® truck which was sitting unattended at a local gas station. Since the truck was wrapped in one gigantic advertisement, it didn't take police long to spot it. Police chased him through three counties – 90 minutes in all – before shooting the tires out and arresting him. A police captain was incredulous. "I would love to know the motivation of stealing a truck that's very, very easy to spot and doesn't go very fast." He added, "What do you think you're going to do with a truck like that?" (*I guess legalizing marijuana really does lead to more crime.*)

Since Sears® closed, it's impossible to find a DieHard®… Two criminals in Clackamas County, Oregon, planned to tag team a crime. One would go into Kohl's and shoplift numerous items, while the other would be waiting in the getaway car just outside the store. It sounded like a winning strategy, but, after the loot was gathered, the getaway car suddenly shut down and its weak battery died. Police were notified and, when officers arrived, they found our hapless thieves with the hood of the car up trying to get a jump from bystanders. Inside the car, they found phones, laptops, clothing, stolen credit cards and a credit card reader, drugs, and counterfeit cash. They also discovered that the getaway car itself was also stolen. The halfwits were charged with theft, possession of a forged instrument and a warrant for heroin possession. (*Unlike the battery, the perps are being charged.*)

There comes a time when a person needs to sit in jail for a while… A 29-year-old man from Marlboro, New York, scored a hat trick when he was reportedly arrested three times on the same day. After being first stopped that morning in the city of Newburgh, driving a Jeep® Cherokee, he was found by the trooper to have a suspended license and crack cocaine with him. He was charged with a misdemeanor and released. At 2:30 p.m. that afternoon, the same trooper stopped him again, this time in a Honda Civic and, again, found him in possession of crack cocaine along with heroin. His final arrest came at 5:45 p.m. when he was stopped driving the Cherokee again and detained after the trooper reportedly determined that he appeared to be under the influence of drugs. He was released with tickets on all three violations and ordered to appear in court the following month. (*"No prison can hold me!" "You're free to leave, sir. We've told you this twice already."*)

He's an awful person, but I envy his time management skills… A 39-year-old Japanese man was arrested after "dating more than 35 women at once to get birthday gifts." He reportedly met his victims while working as a salesman, ending up with birthday presents worth hundreds of dollars. He allegedly gave different dates for his birthday to each of his potential partners after claiming he wanted to have a serious relationship. He is said to have received cards and presents totaling 100,000 yen ($915), including an expensive suit. The women eventually realized his scam and formed an association of victims before going to police. He has since been arrested on suspicion of fraud. (*Anyone who dates 35 women at one time probably won't live long enough to see his next birthday.*)

Wow, Czech this out!... A man in the Hradec Králové region of the Czech Republic shocked police officers when he turned in a Soviet T-34 tank and an SD-100 artillery platform as part of a nationwide weapons amnesty program designed to legalize guns which had not been registered. A local news television program reported that the man was a collector of historic weaponry and has owned the 1950s era tank since the 1990s. Authorities checked the tank and its gun to confirm that they have been properly deactivated and the man was allowed to keep them in his collection. (*It's a tankless job, but someone has to do it.*)

Plus, a misdemeanor for not rewinding… A former Oklahoma resident recently learned she spent years as a wanted felon after she was charged for not returning a VHS tape of "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" to a Norman, Oklahoma, store 21 years ago. Online documents reveal she was charged with felony embezzlement of rented property in March 2000, but didn't know about the charges until she recently tried to change her name on her license after getting married. She said that, over the last 20 years, she's been let go from several jobs without being given a reason why and, now, it all makes sense. "This is why. It's because when they ran my criminal background check, all they're seeing is those two words: felony embezzlement." The district attorney's office said it decided to dismiss the case against her. She will now have to have the case expunged in order to clear her record. (*The felony should be renting "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" in the first place.*) P&SN

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